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INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME TWENTY
FRIENDS



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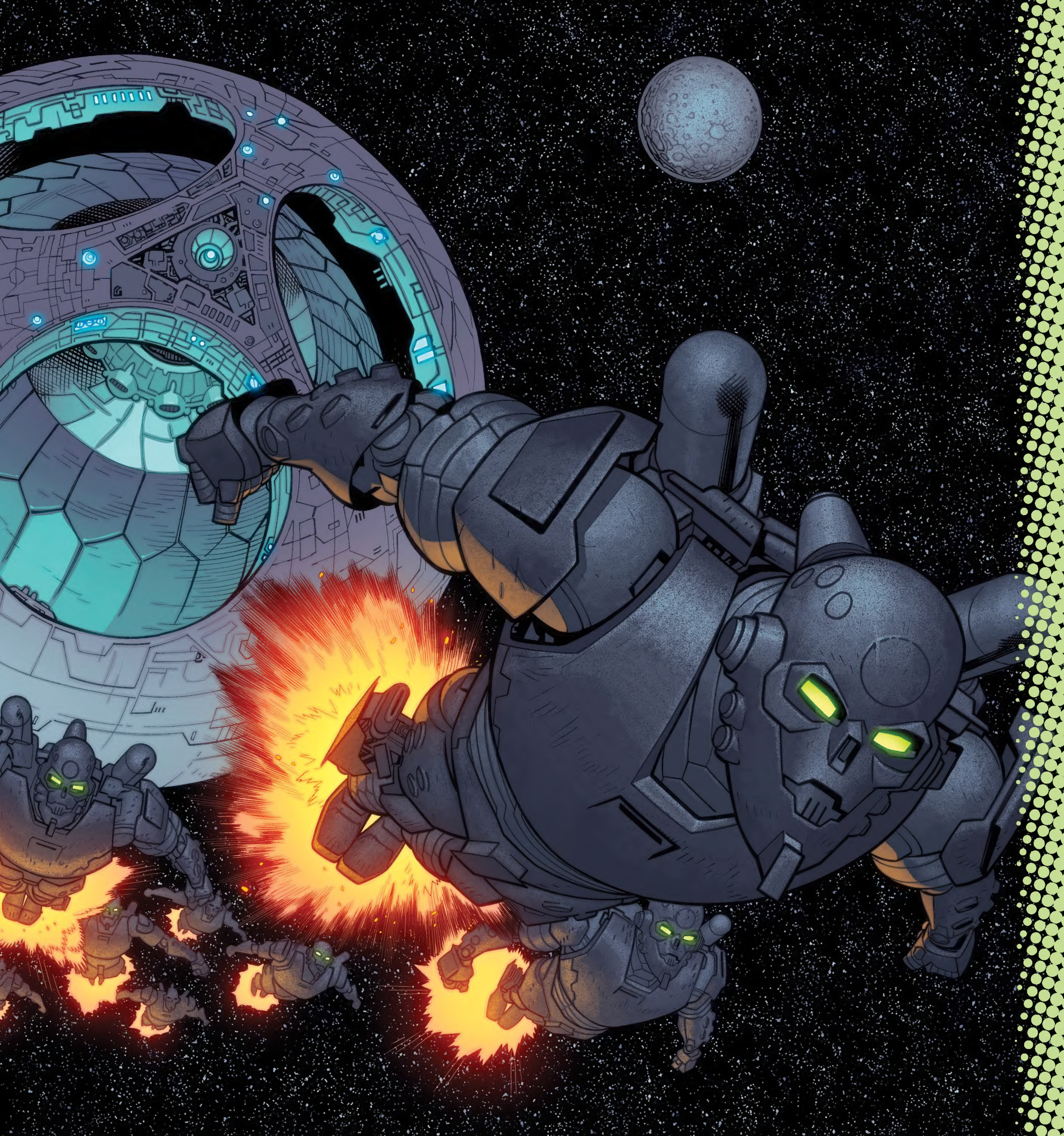
INVINCIBLE™

FRIENDS



CREATED BY
**ROBERT KIRKMAN
& CORY WALKER**

image®



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INVINCIBLE, VOL. 20: FRIENDS

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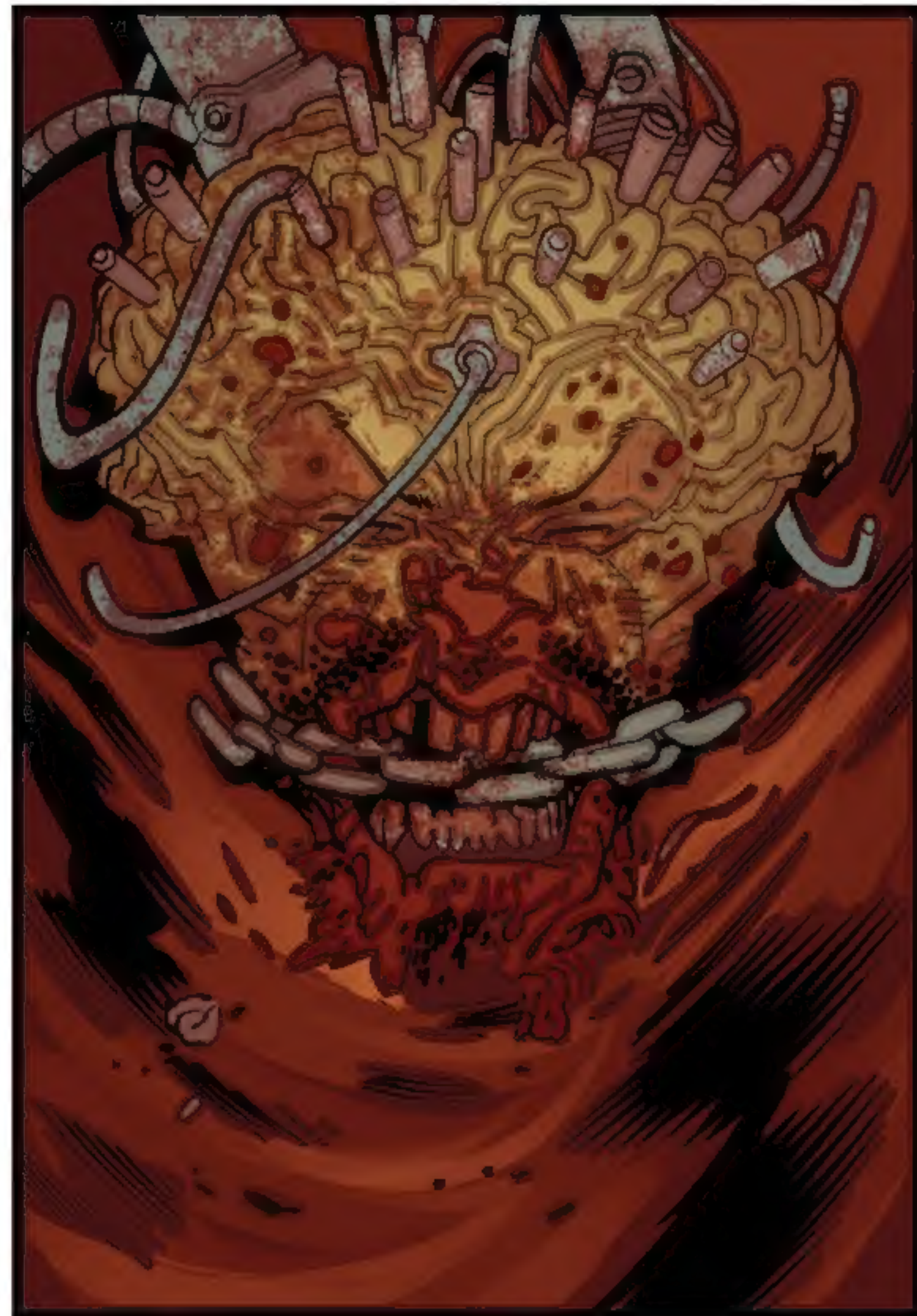
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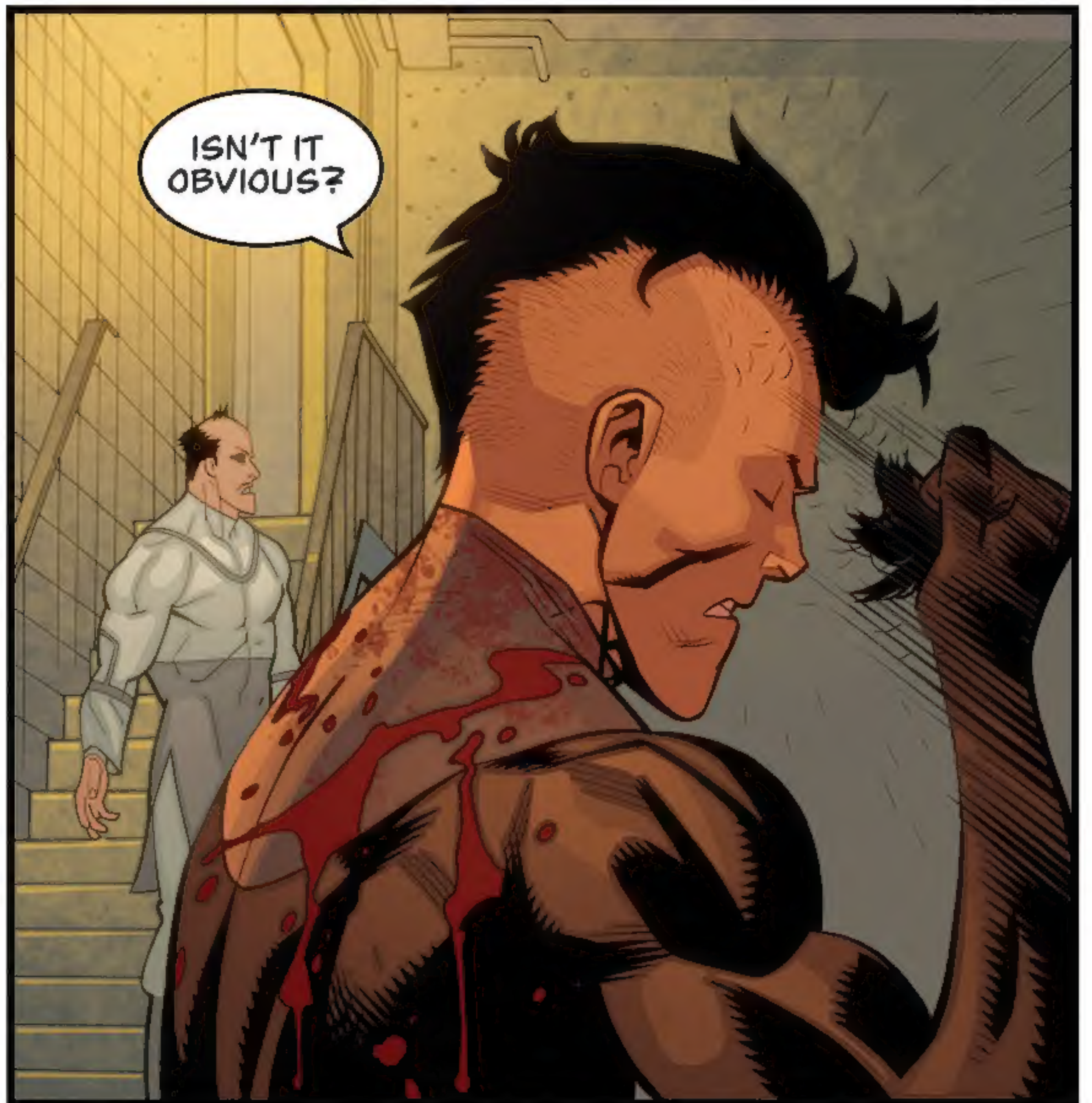
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CHAPTER ONE







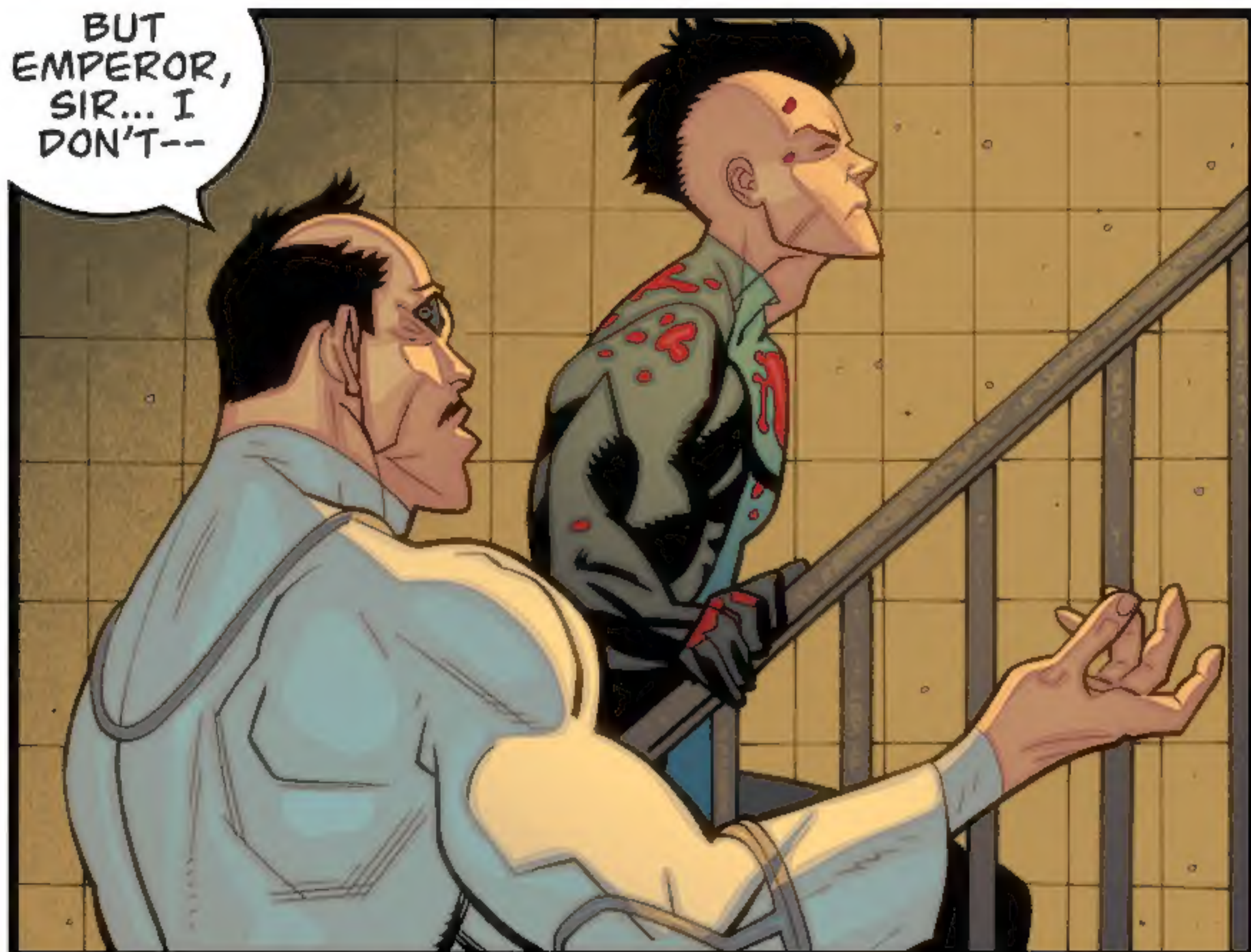
THE VERY PEOPLE WHO PROVIDED MY ESCAPE FROM ANGSTROM LEVY'S DIMENSION AND ALLOWED ME TO BRING HIM HERE TO HARNESS HIS POWER--HAVE KILLED HIM AND TRIED TO HALT OUR PROGRESS!

ONE OF THEM ESCAPED WITH THE TECHNOLOGY INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION. **THIS PROJECT IS NOW PRIORITY ONE!**

YOU WILL HANDLE ALL OF MY DUTIES UNTIL THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETE. I WILL GO NOW, TO SEEK ANOTHER WHO CAN PROVIDE US WITH THE MEANS OF EXPANDING OUR **GLORIOUS VILTRUM EMPIRE** INTO COUNTLESS OTHER DIMENSIONS.

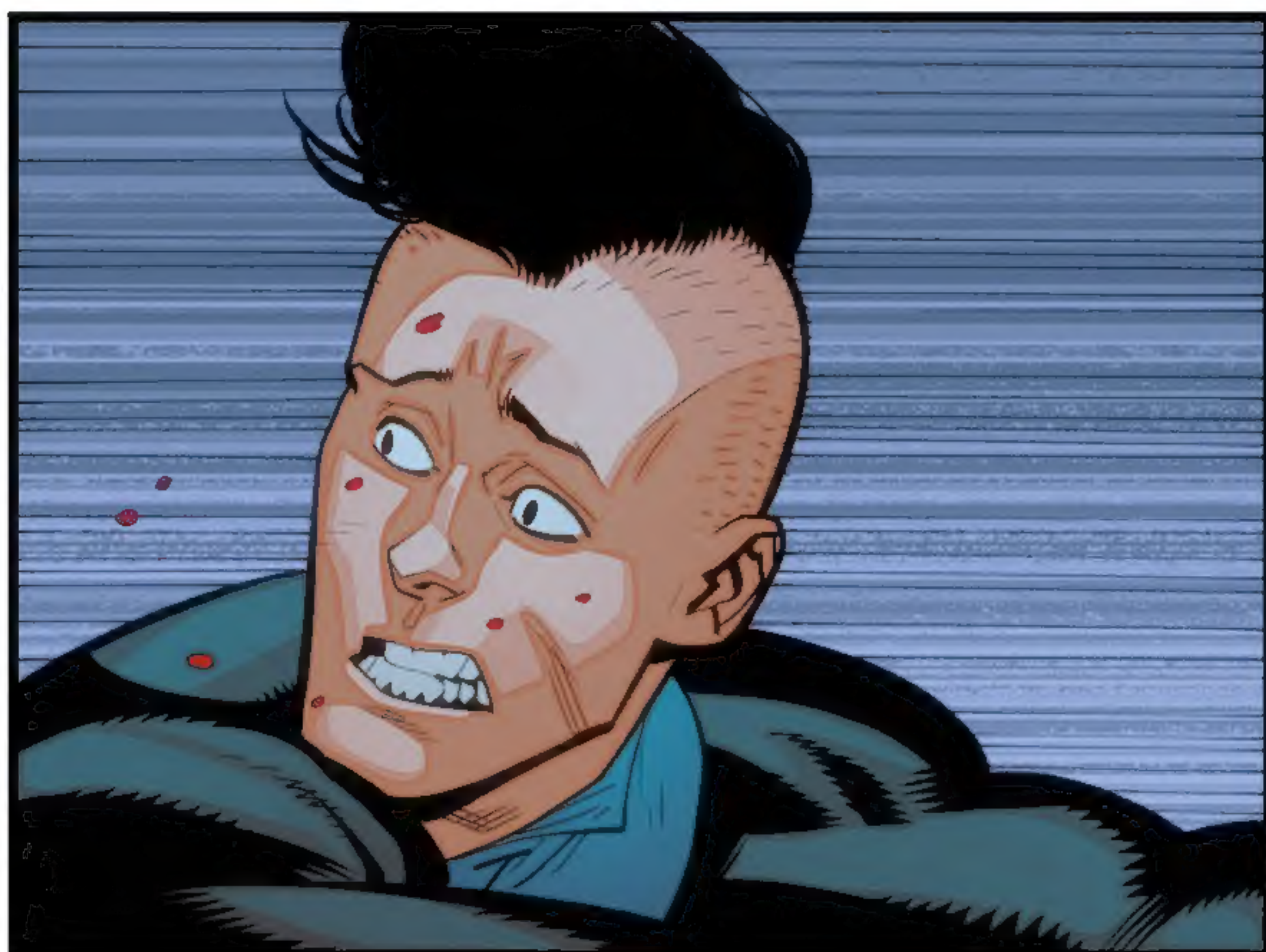


BUT EMPEROR, SIR... I DON'T--



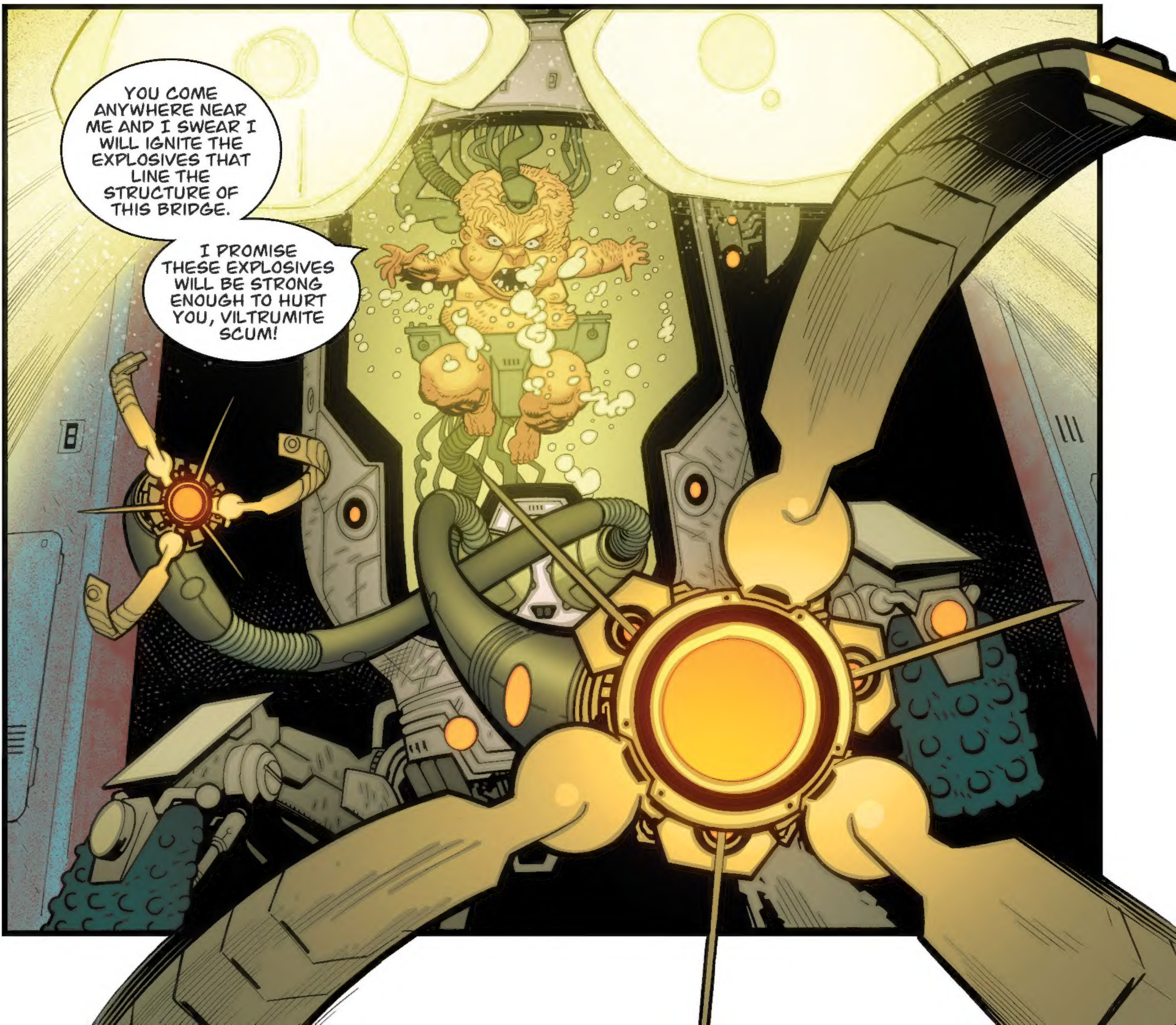
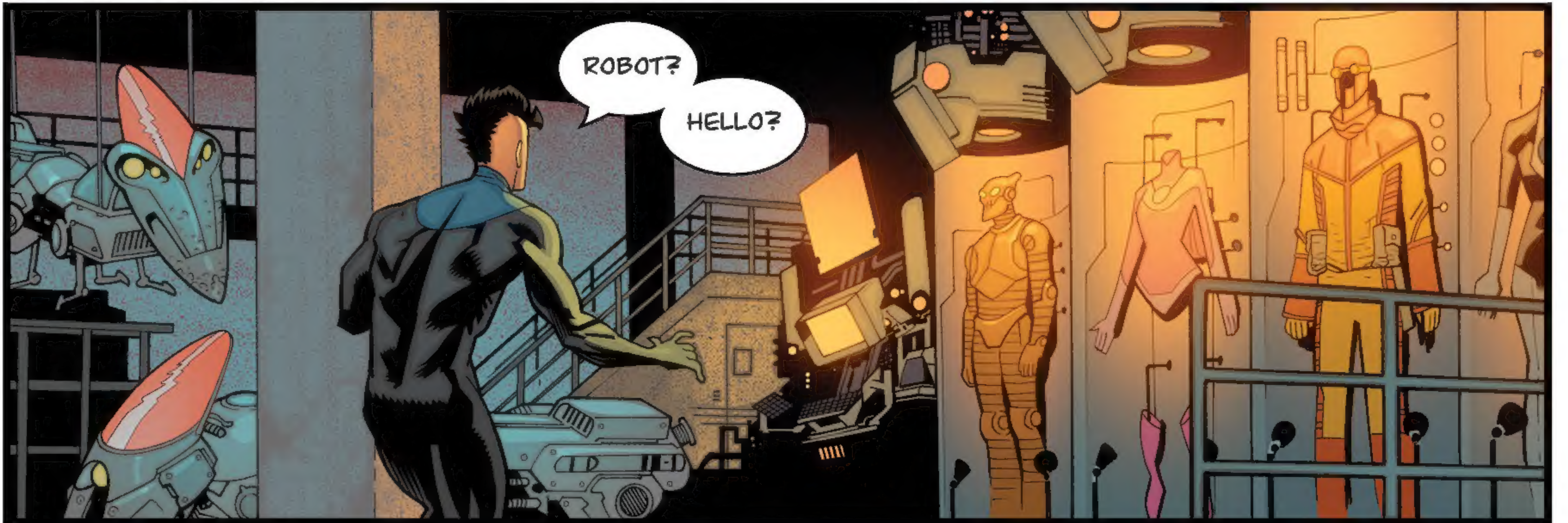
SILENCE!

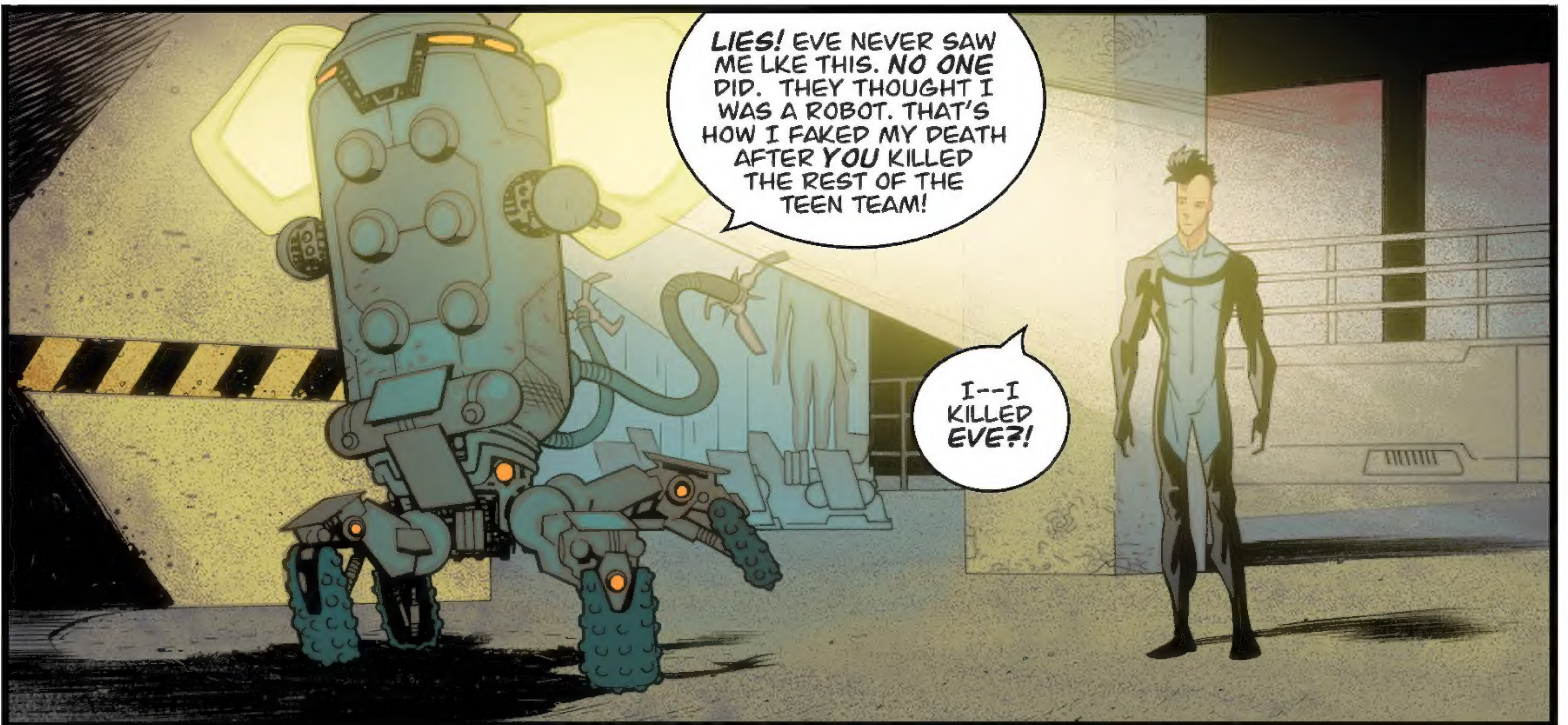
I EXPECT THIS MESS TO BE GONE UPON MY RETURN!

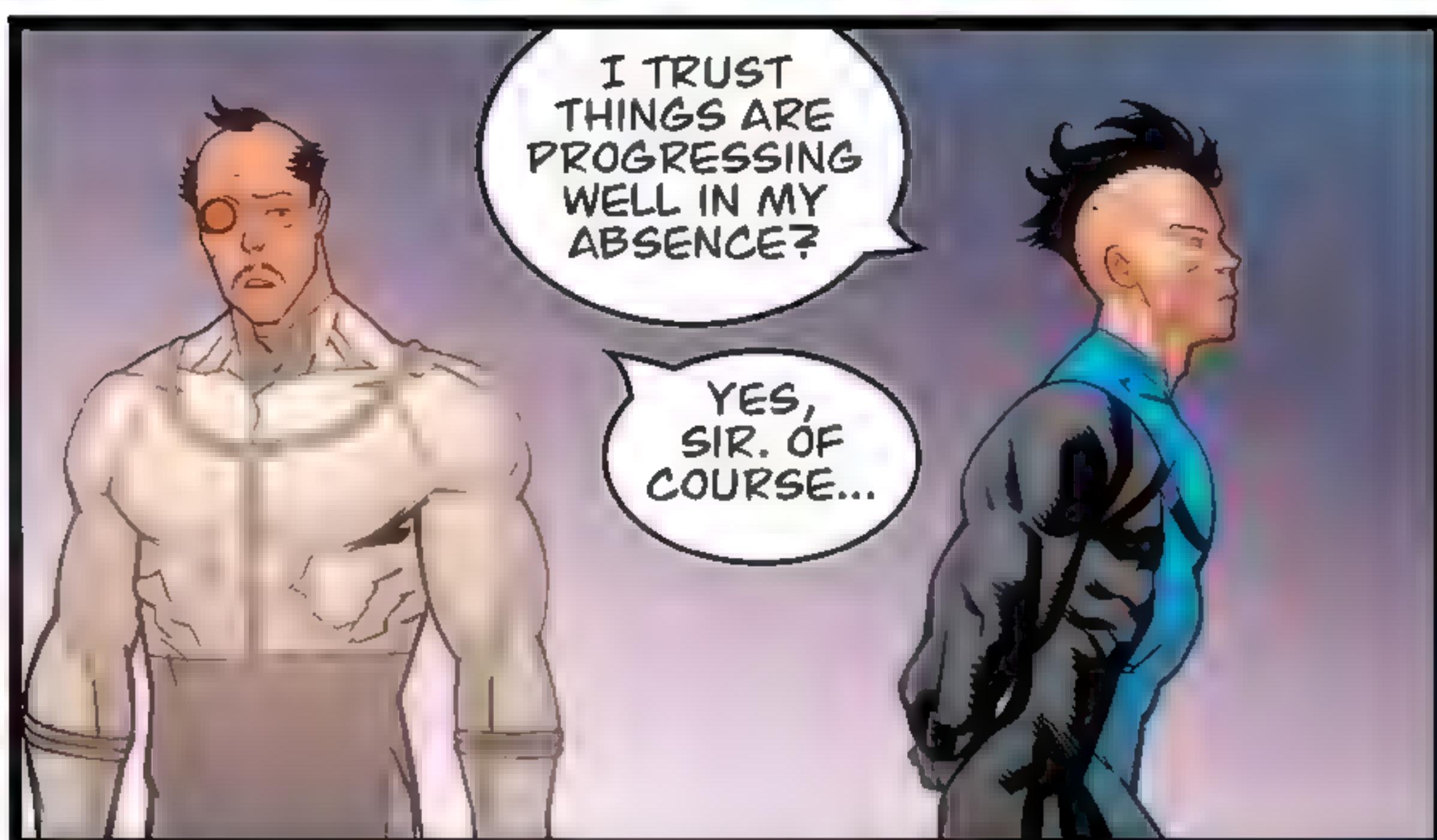
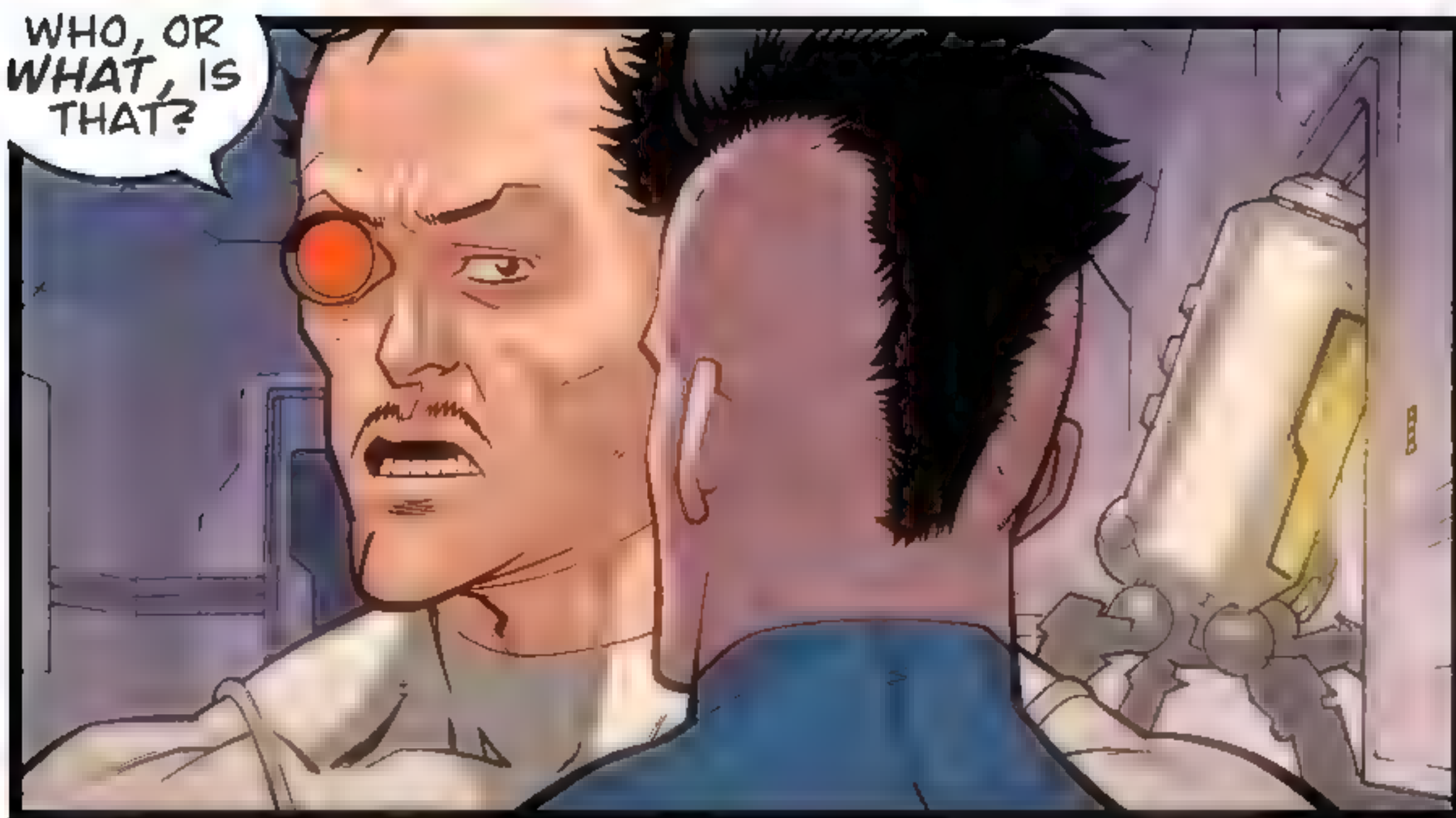
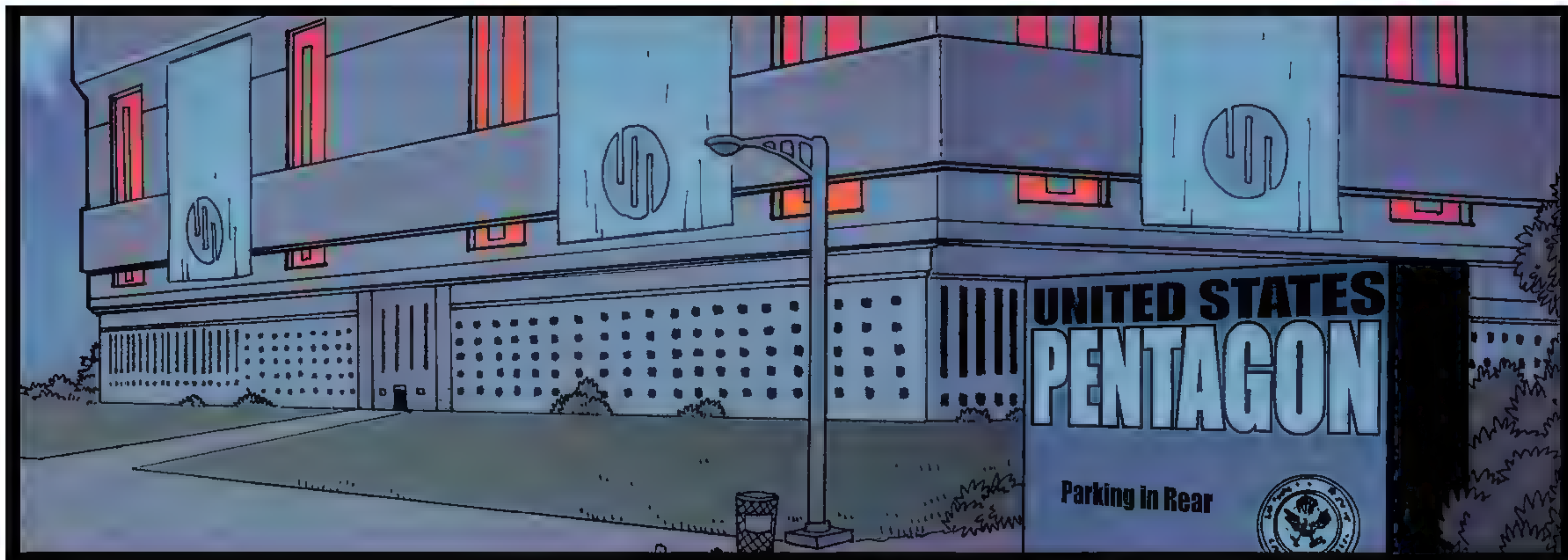


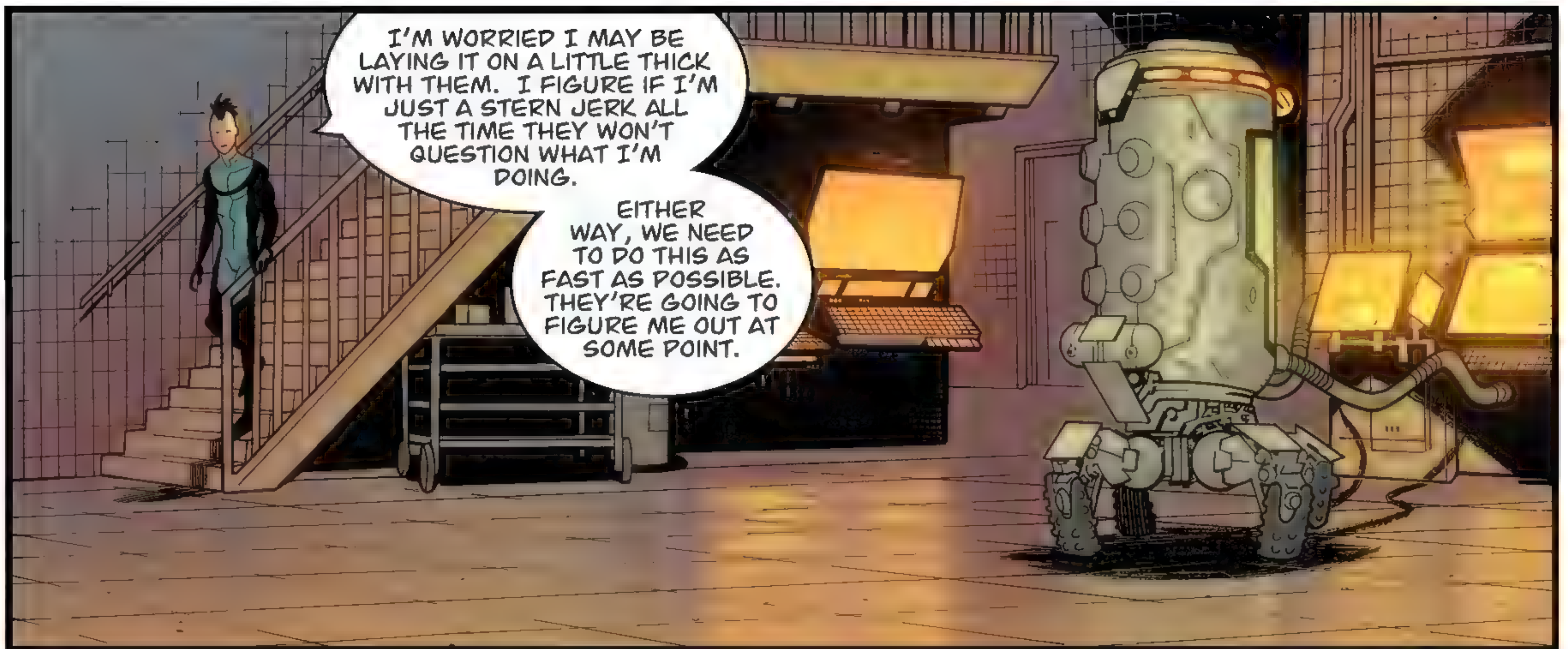
≡WHEW≡











I'M WORRIED I MAY BE LAYING IT ON A LITTLE THICK WITH THEM. I FIGURE IF I'M JUST A STERN JERK ALL THE TIME THEY WON'T QUESTION WHAT I'M DOING.

EITHER WAY, WE NEED TO DO THIS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE. THEY'RE GOING TO FIGURE ME OUT AT SOME POINT.

I'VE ALREADY DOWNLOADED ALL THE WORK THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY DONE ON THIS PROJECT. AT A GLANCE, IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WERE CLOSE... SO THIS SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD.

I'D FEEL SAFER WORKING OFF-SITE... I HAVE EVERYTHING I'LL NEED.

JUST LET ME CHECK A FEW THINGS BEFORE WE GO.



ROBOT, LET ME ASK YOU...

ARE YOU SURE I KILLED EVE?

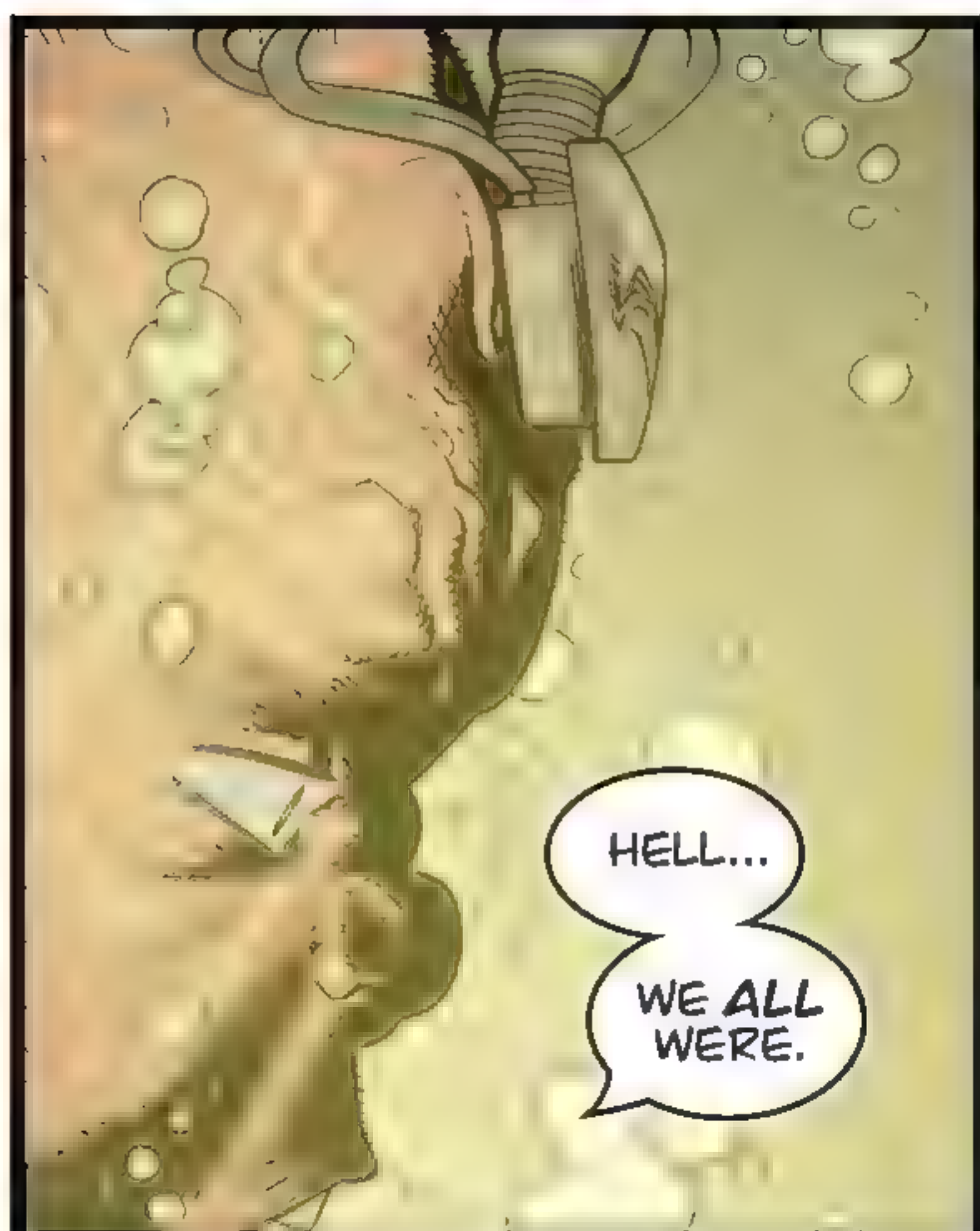


I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME RUDY. I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO REVEAL MY IDENTITY.

BUT YES. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES. THE TWO OF YOU HAD GROWN CLOSE, BUT YOU JUST WEREN'T HUMAN. YOU DIDN'T SEE THINGS THE SAME WAY... SOMETHING WAS OFF. THERE WERE LITTLE THINGS, BUT WE MOSTLY IGNORED THEM.

ONCE YOUR FATHER ENLISTED YOU... YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT WE WOULD HELP YOU TAKE OVER THE PLANET. I'M SURE EVE ACTUALLY CONSIDERED IT... BUT AFTER YOU KILLED REX...

SHE DIDN'T LOVE HIM LIKE SHE USED TO... BUT THE TWO OF THEM WERE VERY CLOSE.



HELL...

WE ALL WERE.

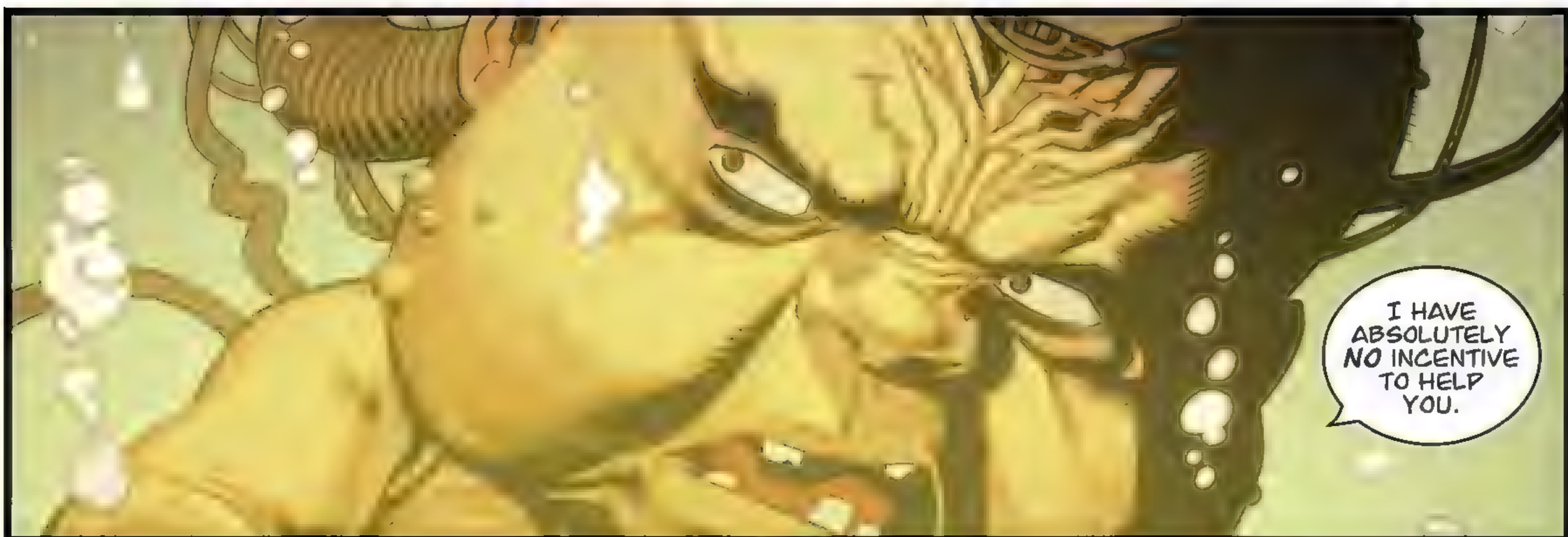
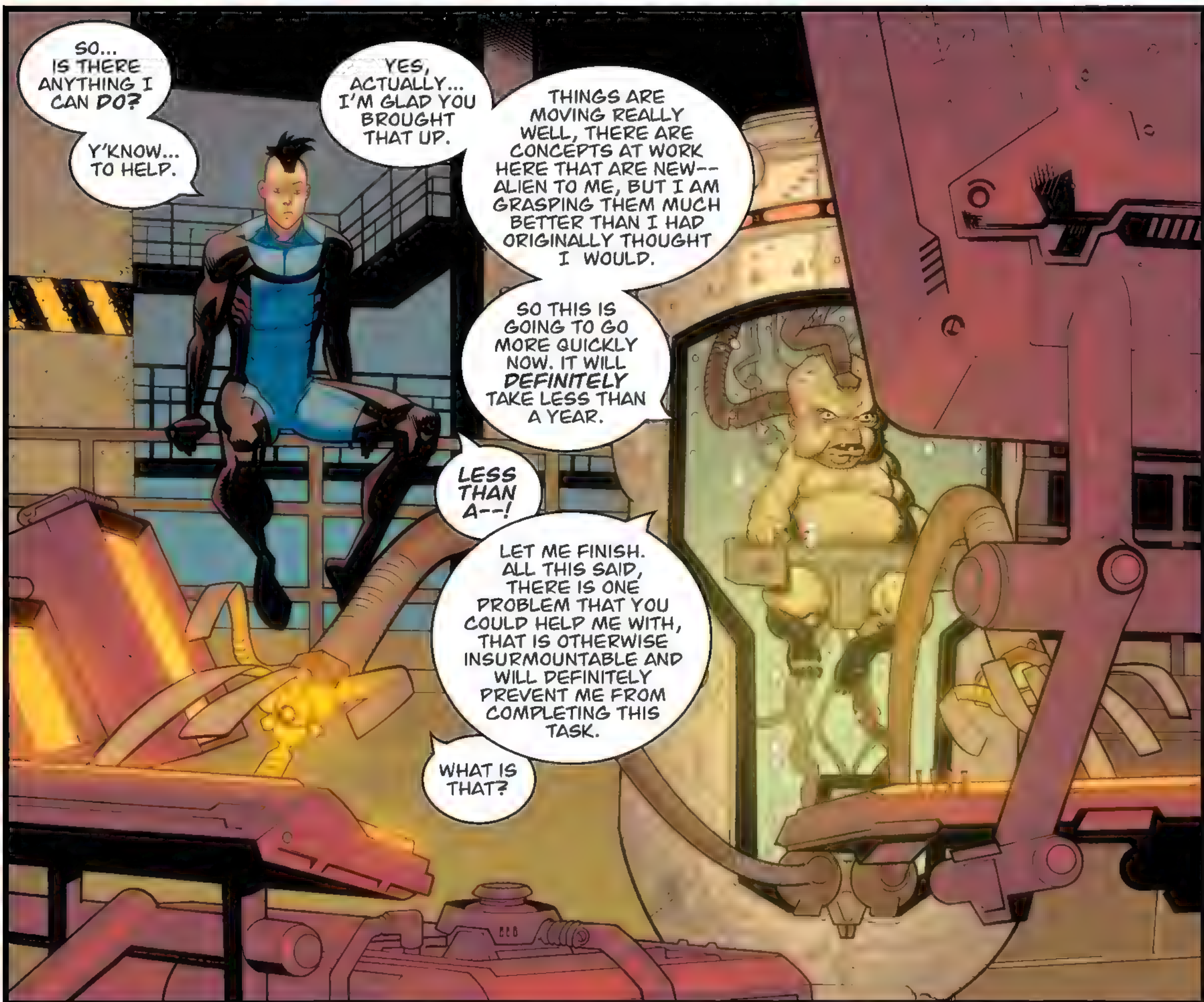
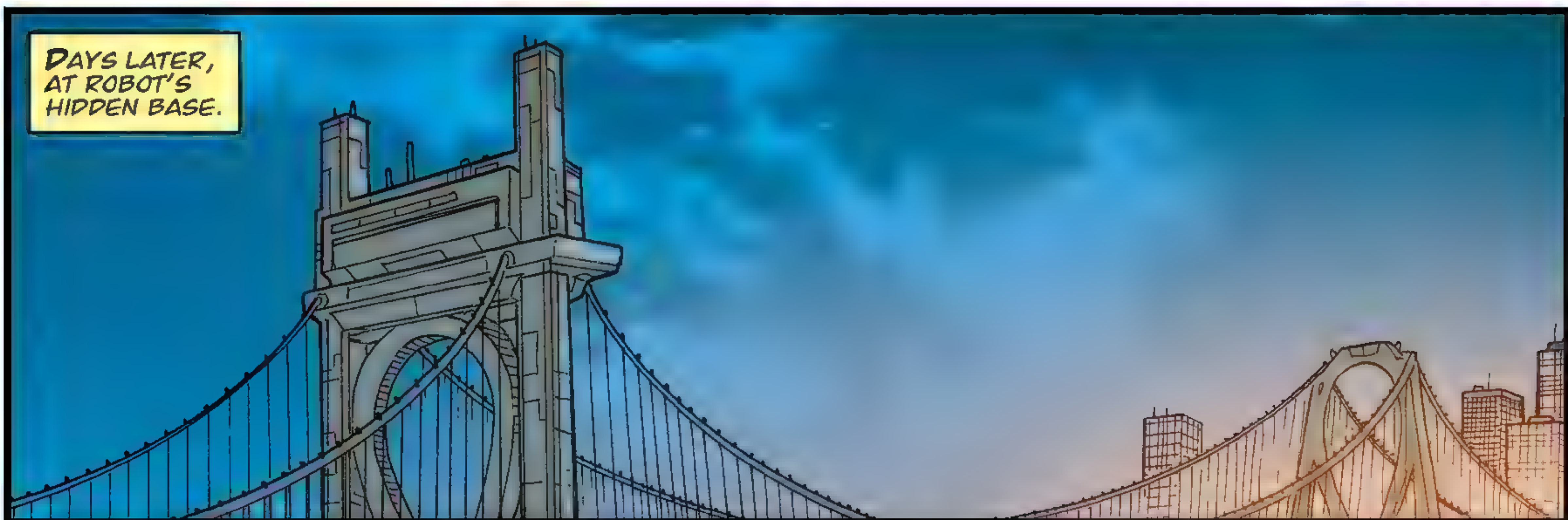


IT'S HARD... TALKING TO YOU LIKE THIS. SEEING YOU...

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT REALLY YOU.



I UNDERSTAND.



YOU MEAN OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT YOU'RE MY FRIEND AND I NEED HELP?



OR REALLY... WERE MY FRIEND. I NEED TO GET BACK HOME SO I CAN SORT THIS CRAP OUT.

WHATEVER RELATIONSHIP MY OTHERDIMENSIONAL COUNTERPART HAS OR HAD WITH YOU IS INCONSEQUENTIAL.



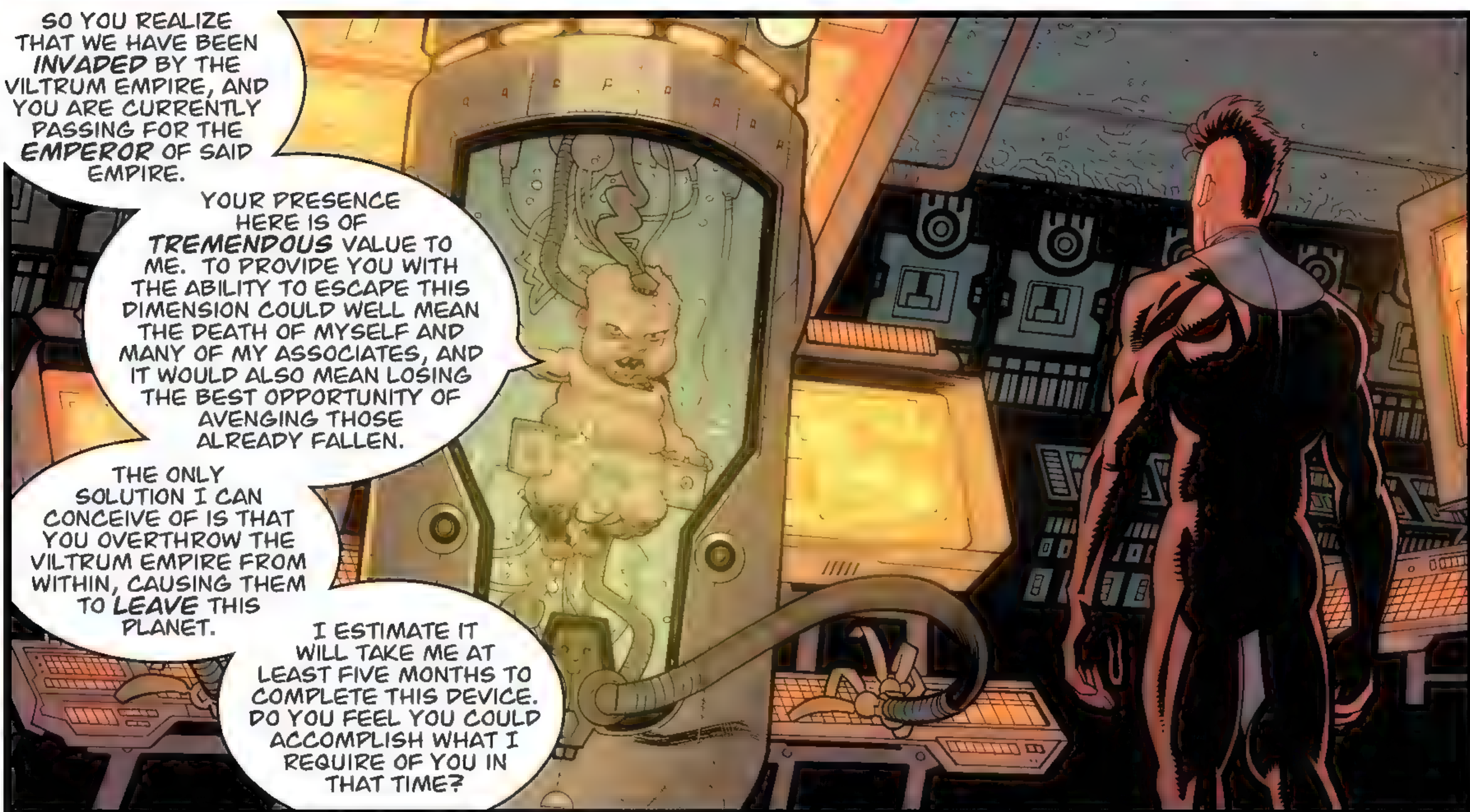
NOT ONLY DO I HAVE NO INCENTIVE TO COMPLETE THIS TASK, IT'S ACTUALLY IN MY BEST INTERESTS AND THE BEST INTERESTS OF EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET FOR ME NOT TO DO SO.

I THINK I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS.



THAT'S A TOUGH ONE.

SO YOU REALIZE THAT WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY THE VILTRUM EMPIRE, AND YOU ARE CURRENTLY PASSING FOR THE EMPEROR OF SAID EMPIRE.



YOUR PRESENCE HERE IS OF TREMENDOUS VALUE TO ME. TO PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ABILITY TO ESCAPE THIS DIMENSION COULD WELL MEAN THE DEATH OF MYSELF AND MANY OF MY ASSOCIATES, AND IT WOULD ALSO MEAN LOSING THE BEST OPPORTUNITY OF AVENGING THOSE ALREADY FALLEN.

THE ONLY SOLUTION I CAN CONCEIVE OF IS THAT YOU OVERTHROW THE VILTRUM EMPIRE FROM WITHIN, CAUSING THEM TO LEAVE THIS PLANET.

I ESTIMATE IT WILL TAKE ME AT LEAST FIVE MONTHS TO COMPLETE THIS DEVICE. DO YOU FEEL YOU COULD ACCOMPLISH WHAT I REQUIRE OF YOU IN THAT TIME?

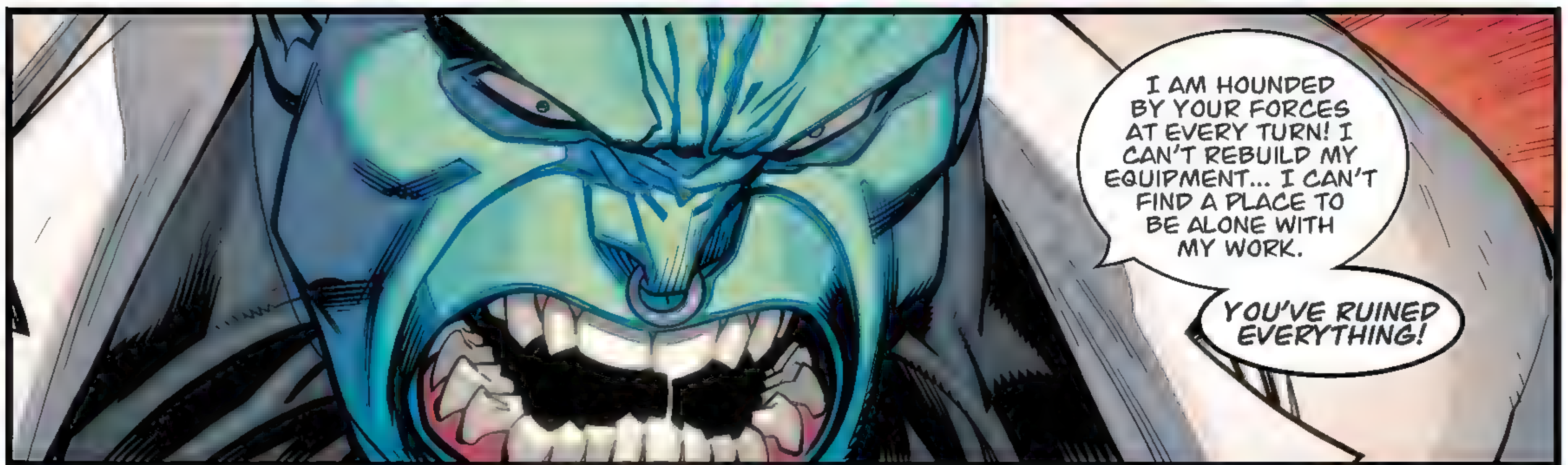
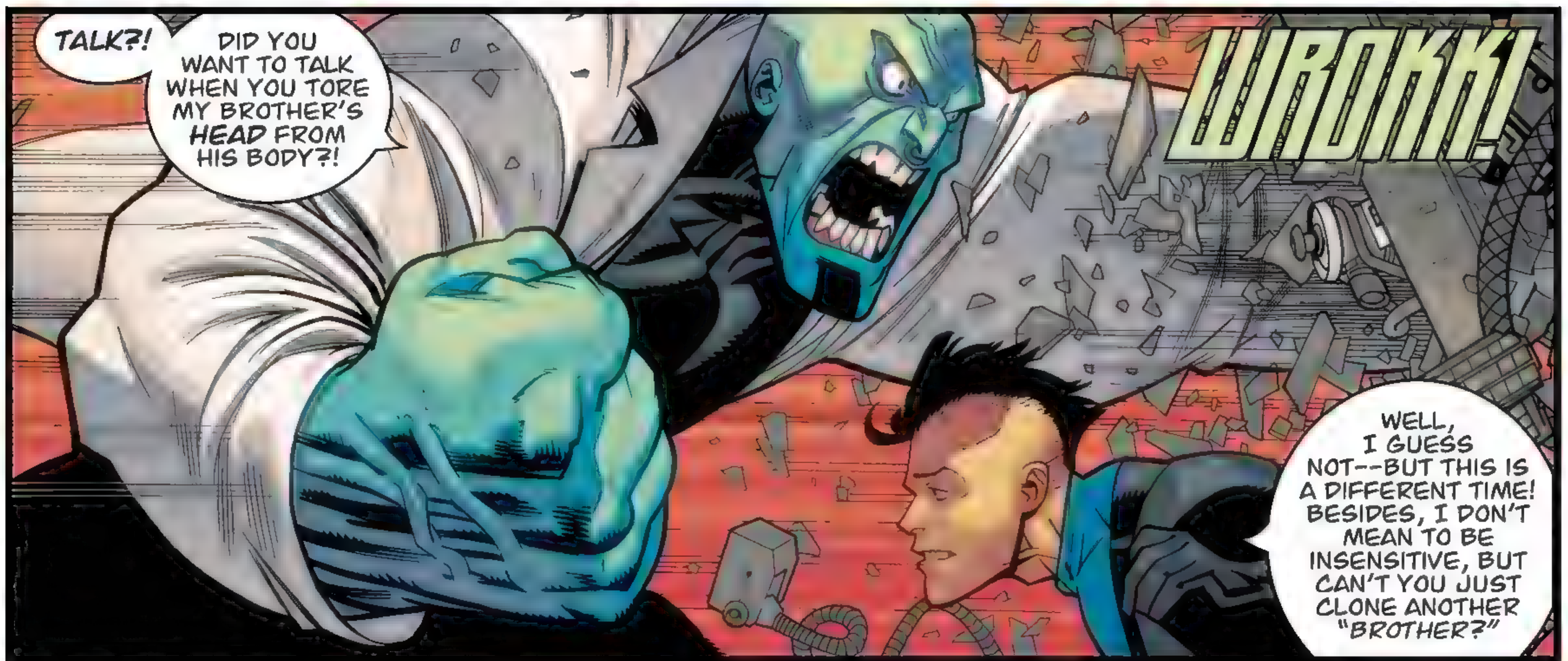
PROBABLY NOT... BUT I THINK I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.

DO YOU HAVE MAULER TWINS IN THIS DIMENSION?

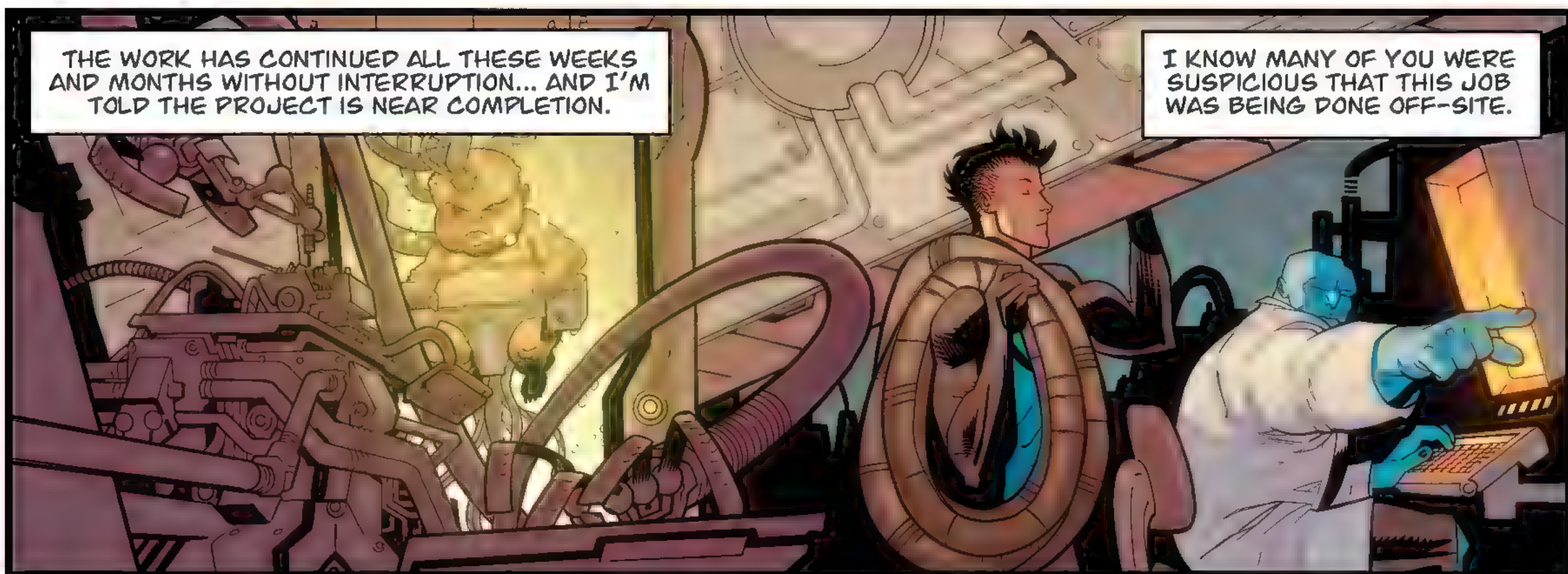


I SWEAR
I JUST
WANT TO
TALK!

BRONK
OOOM!!!

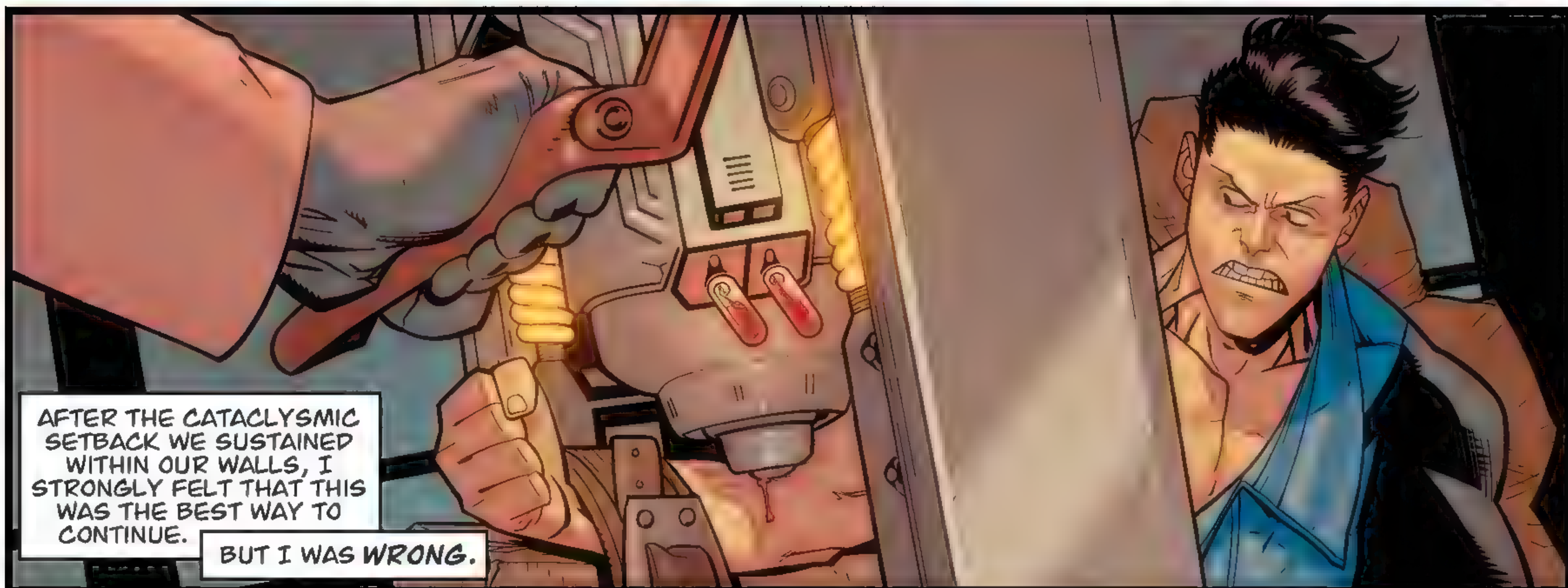






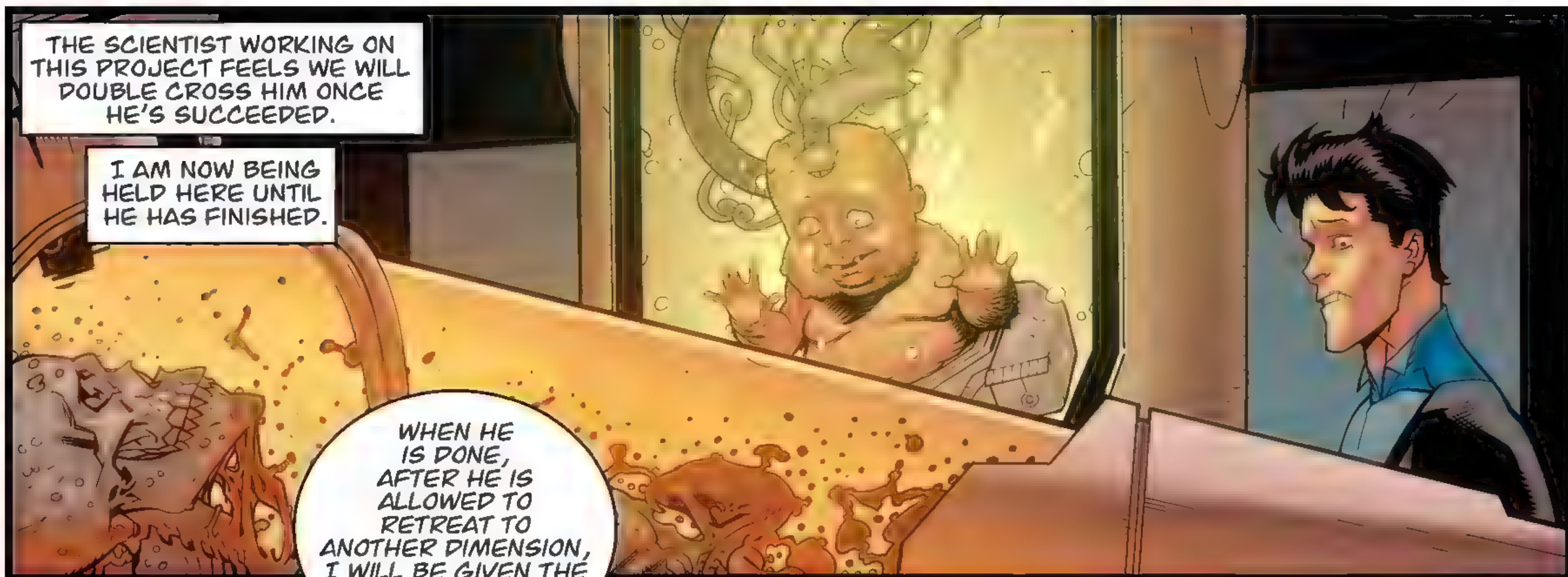
THE WORK HAS CONTINUED ALL THESE WEEKS AND MONTHS WITHOUT INTERRUPTION... AND I'M TOLD THE PROJECT IS NEAR COMPLETION.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU WERE SUSPICIOUS THAT THIS JOB WAS BEING DONE OFF-SITE.



AFTER THE CATAclysmic SETBACK WE SUSTAINED WITHIN OUR WALLS, I STRONGLY FELT THAT THIS WAS THE BEST WAY TO CONTINUE.

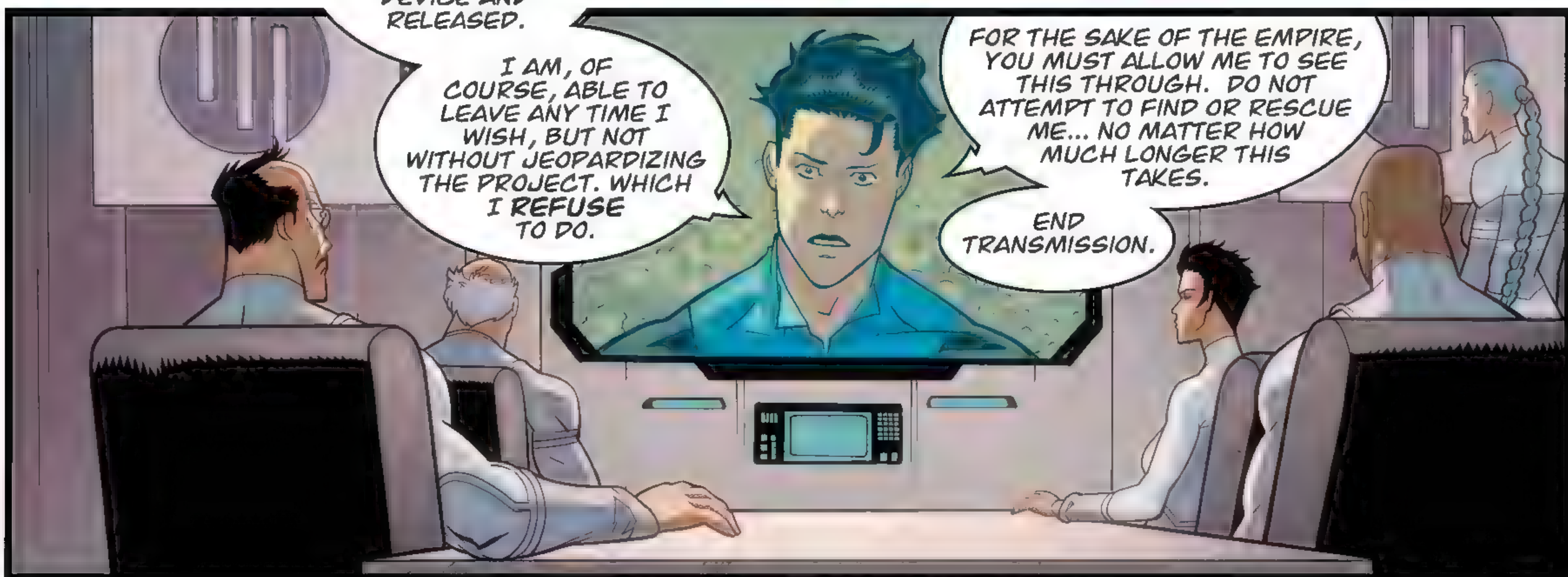
BUT I WAS **WRONG**.



THE SCIENTIST WORKING ON THIS PROJECT FEELS WE WILL DOUBLE CROSS HIM ONCE HE'S SUCCEEDED.

I AM NOW BEING HELD HERE UNTIL HE HAS FINISHED.

WHEN HE IS DONE, AFTER HE IS ALLOWED TO RETREAT TO ANOTHER DIMENSION, I WILL BE GIVEN THE DEVICE AND RELEASED.

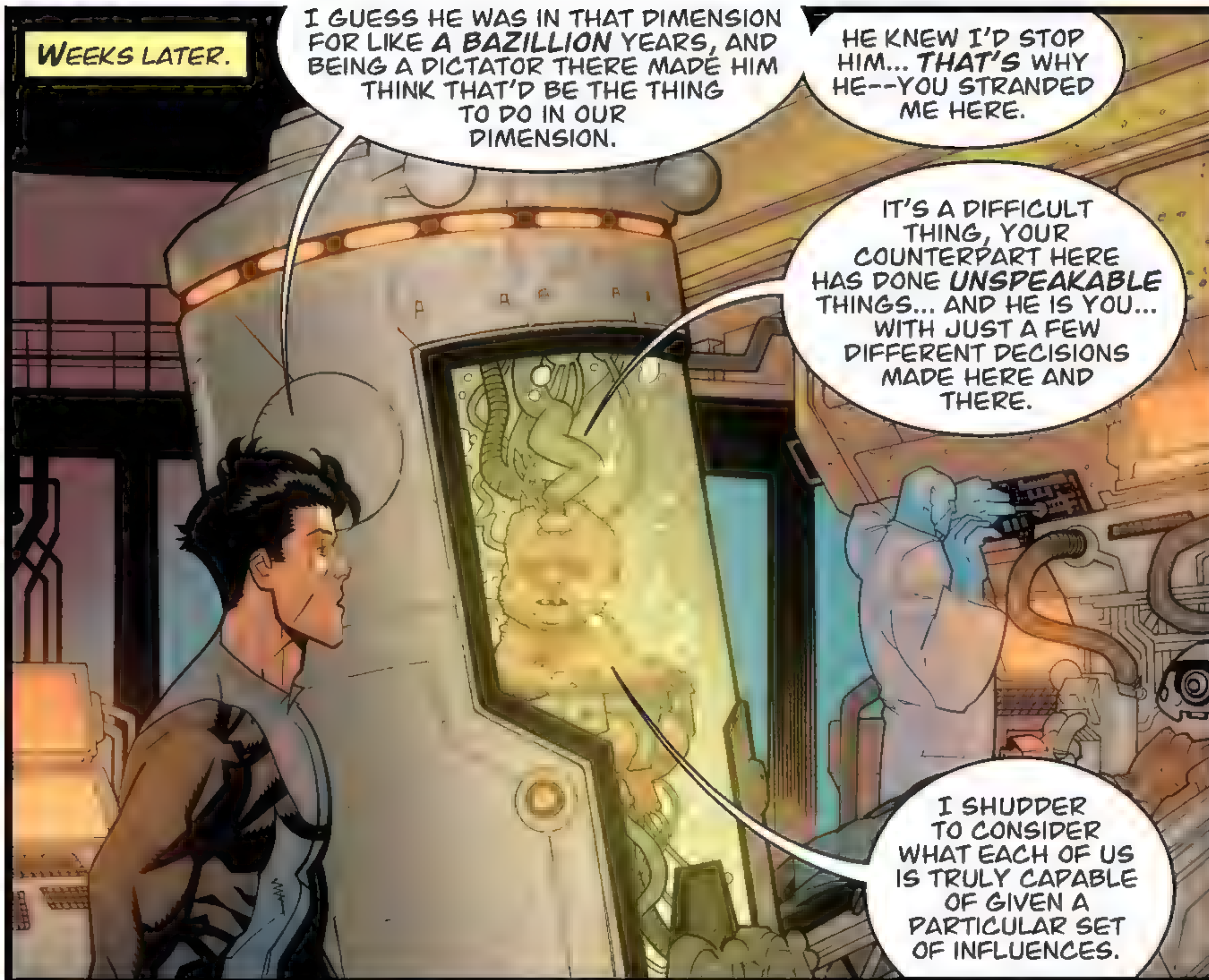


I AM, OF COURSE, ABLE TO LEAVE ANY TIME I WISH, BUT NOT WITHOUT JEOPARDIZING THE PROJECT. WHICH I REFUSE TO DO.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE, YOU MUST ALLOW ME TO SEE THIS THROUGH. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FIND OR RESCUE ME... NO MATTER HOW MUCH LONGER THIS TAKES.

END TRANSMISSION.





WEEKS LATER.

I GUESS HE WAS IN THAT DIMENSION FOR LIKE A BAZILLION YEARS, AND BEING A DICTATOR THERE MADE HIM THINK THAT'D BE THE THING TO DO IN OUR DIMENSION.

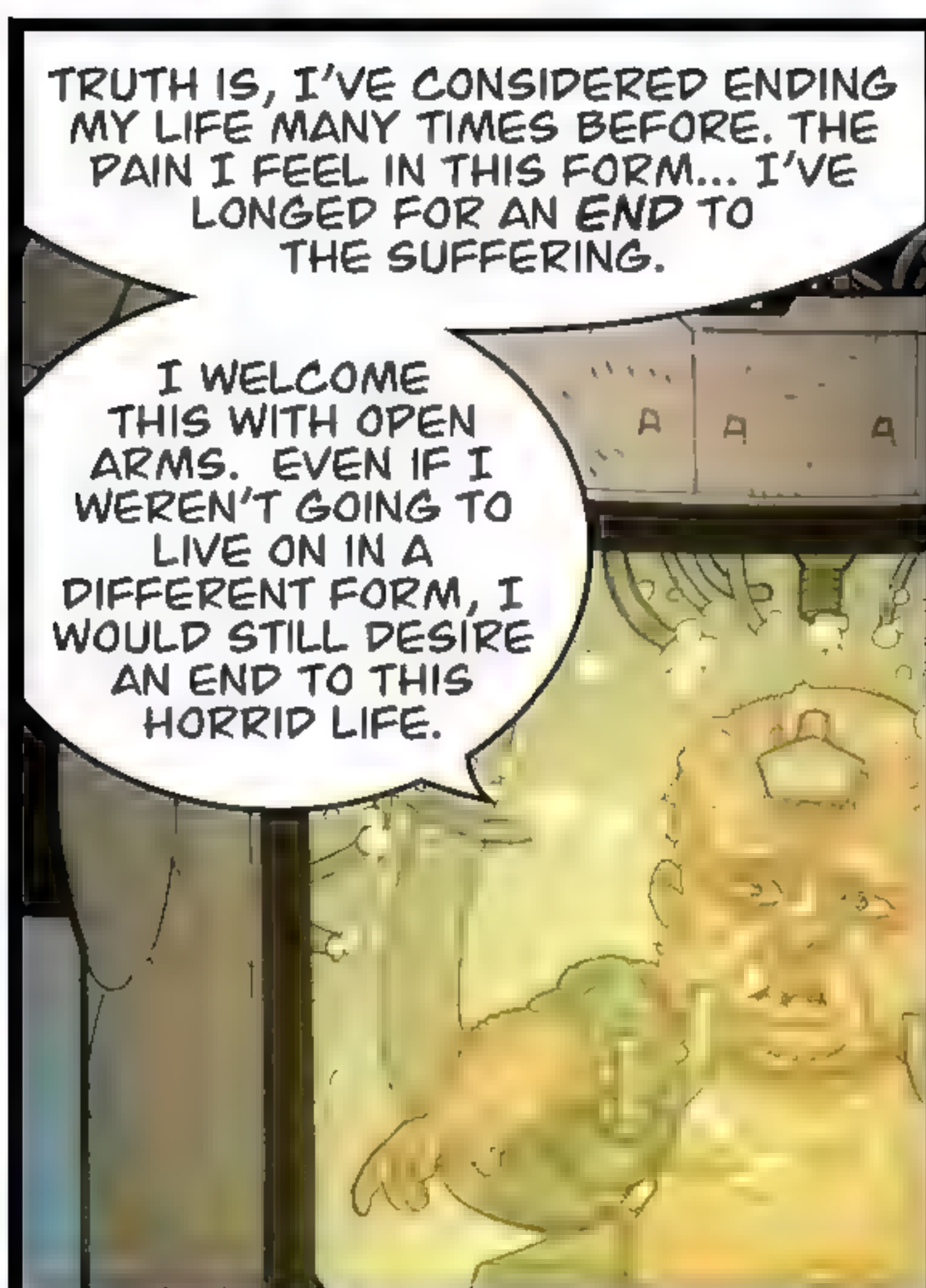
HE KNEW I'D STOP HIM... *THAT'S* WHY HE--YOU STRANDED ME HERE.

IT'S A DIFFICULT THING, YOUR COUNTERPART HERE HAS DONE *UNSPEAKABLE* THINGS... AND HE IS YOU... WITH JUST A FEW DIFFERENT DECISIONS MADE HERE AND THERE.

I SHUDDER TO CONSIDER WHAT EACH OF US IS TRULY CAPABLE OF GIVEN A PARTICULAR SET OF INFLUENCES.



ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?



TRUTH IS, I'VE CONSIDERED ENDING MY LIFE MANY TIMES BEFORE. THE PAIN I FEEL IN THIS FORM... I'VE LONGED FOR AN END TO THE SUFFERING.

I WELCOME THIS WITH OPEN ARMS. EVEN IF I WEREN'T GOING TO LIVE ON IN A DIFFERENT FORM, I WOULD STILL DESIRE AN END TO THIS HORRID LIFE.



ALL SET, THEN.

YOUR DEVICE IS COMPLETE. THANK YOU FOR STAYING AND HELPING WITH THIS PROCESS.



WHAT'S A COUPLE MORE HOURS? I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.

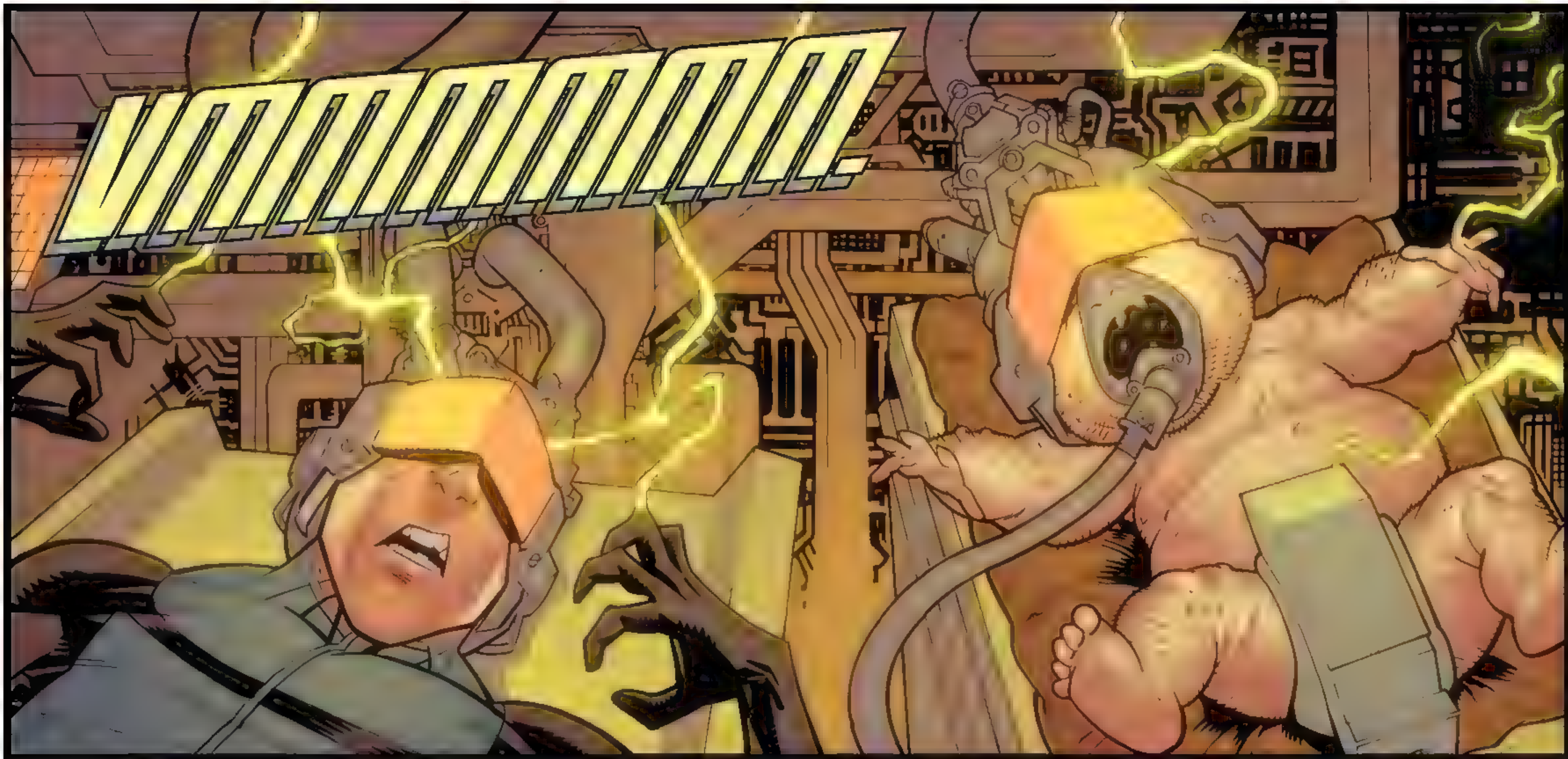
IT IS YOU I SHOULD BE THANKING. YOU HAVE SAVED THIS WORLD... IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME NOW.



ALL SET. BEGINNING THE TRANSFERENCE.



AAAAND THERE'S ANOTHER VERSION OF ME ON THIS TABLE IN FRONT OF ME. SOMETHING ON A LONG LIST OF THINGS IN MY LIFE THAT I WILL NEVER GET USED TO.



IT'S AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE AMOUNT OF DATA BEING TRANSFERRED... STILL, THIS WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES.



I'LL WAIT.



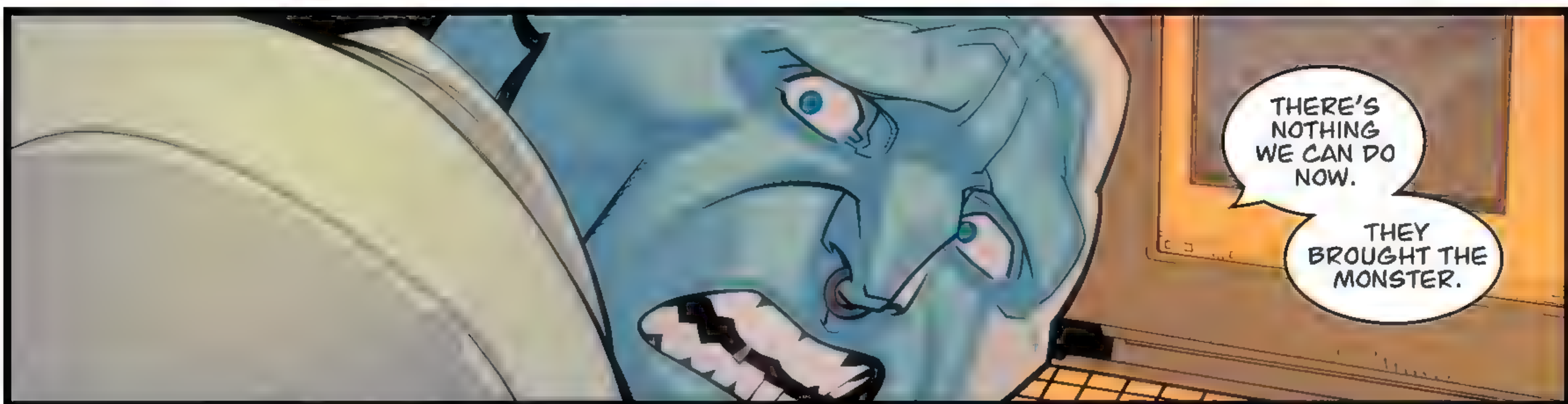
THANKS FOR DOING THIS. I'M SHOCKED THE VILTRUMITES ACTUALLY LISTENED TO ME AND NEVER TRIED TO--

PROXIMITY ALARM. IT'S THEM.



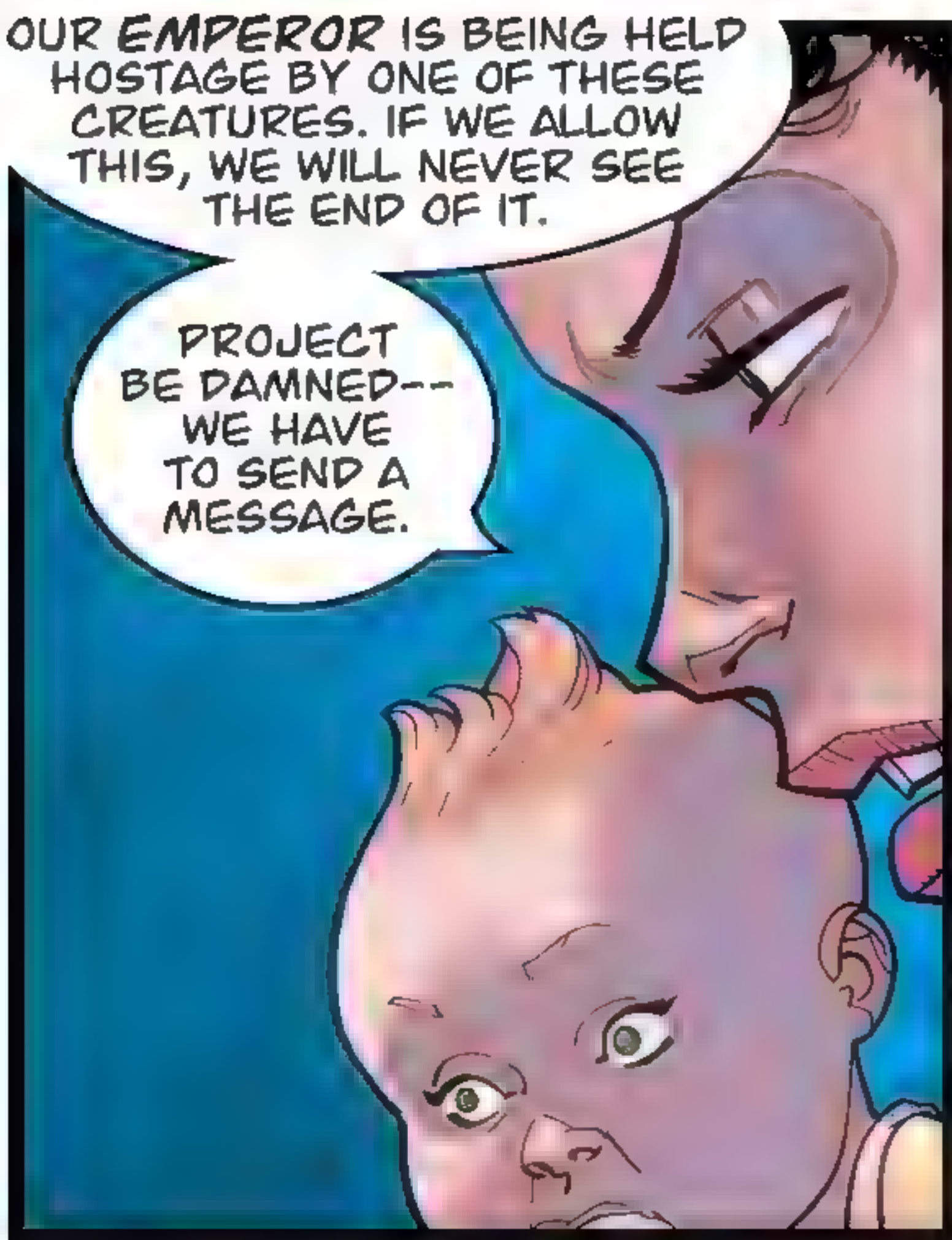
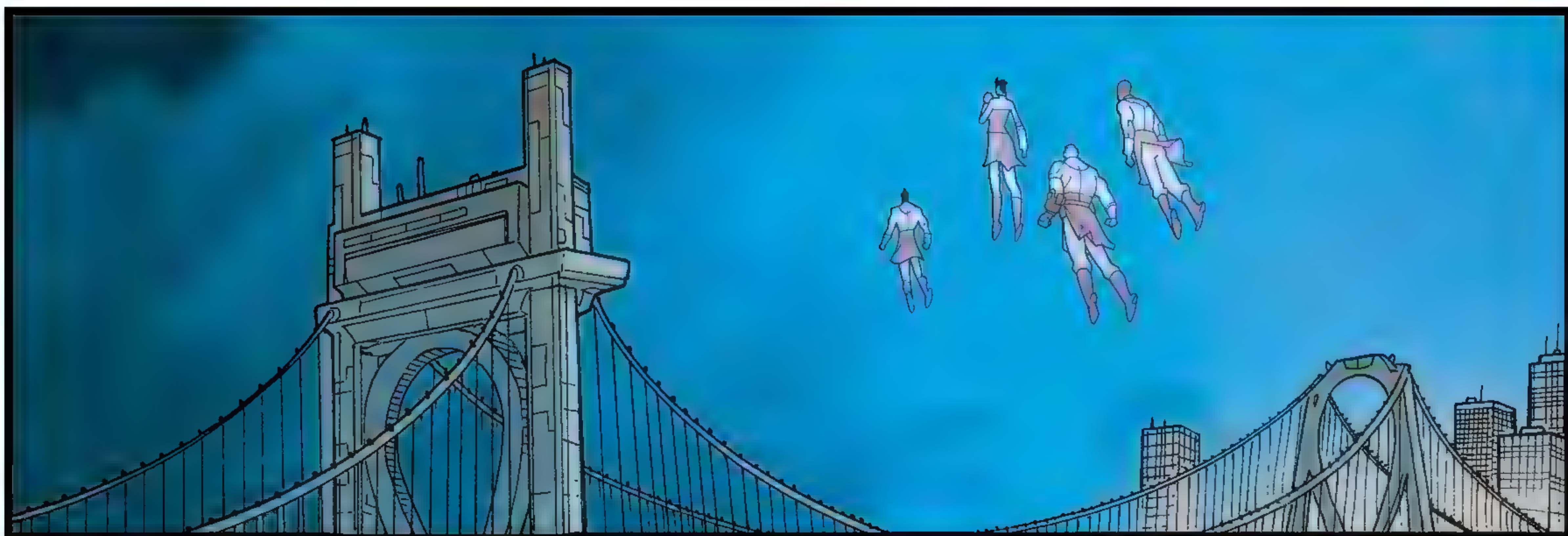
NO! IT'S TOO SOON! THIS PLAN WON'T WORK IF THEY ATTACK BEFORE WE'RE READY! I CAN'T BE HERE IF THEY BREAK THEIR WAY IN--BUT I CAN'T LEAVE HIM HERE TO DIE!

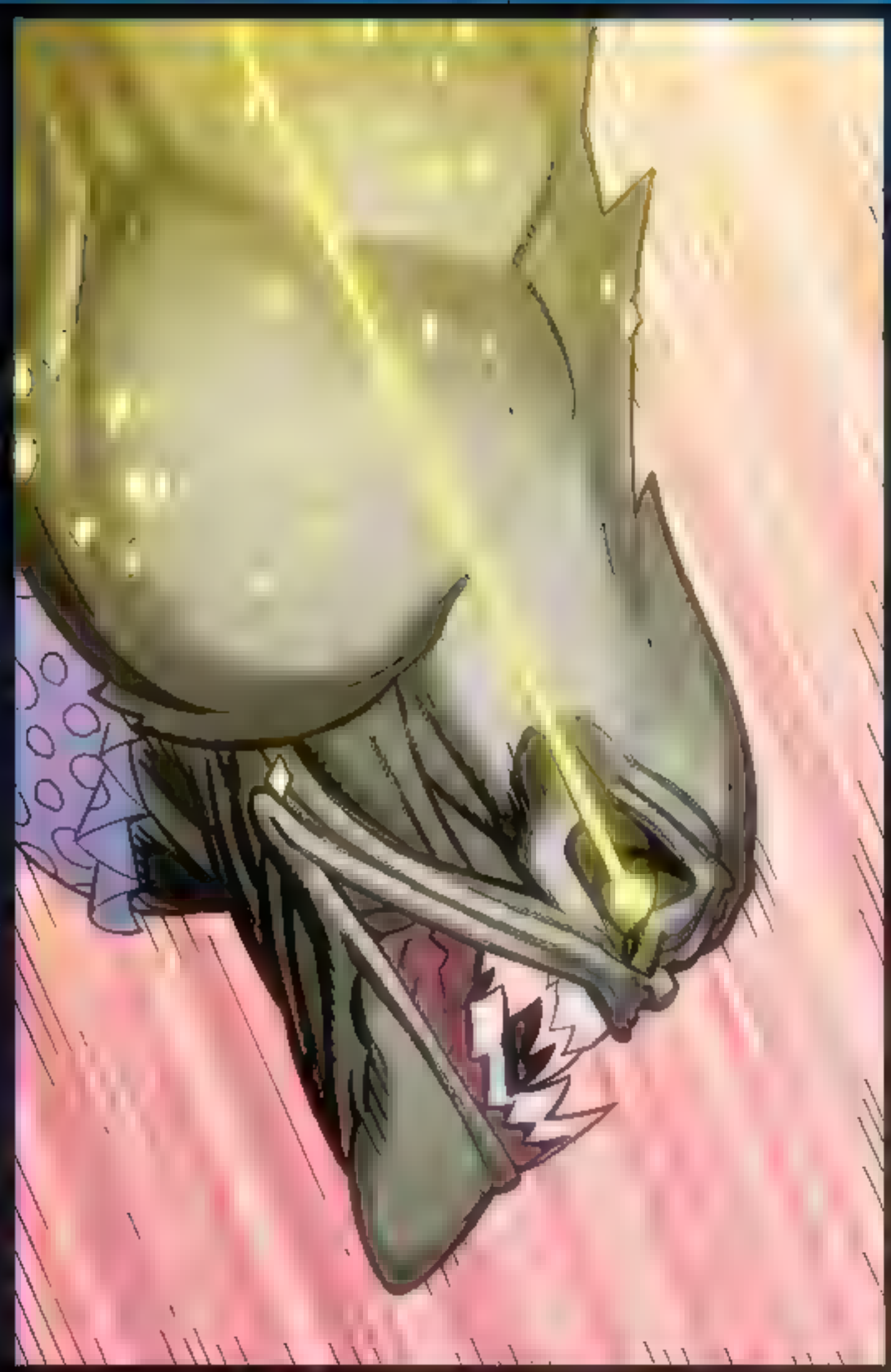
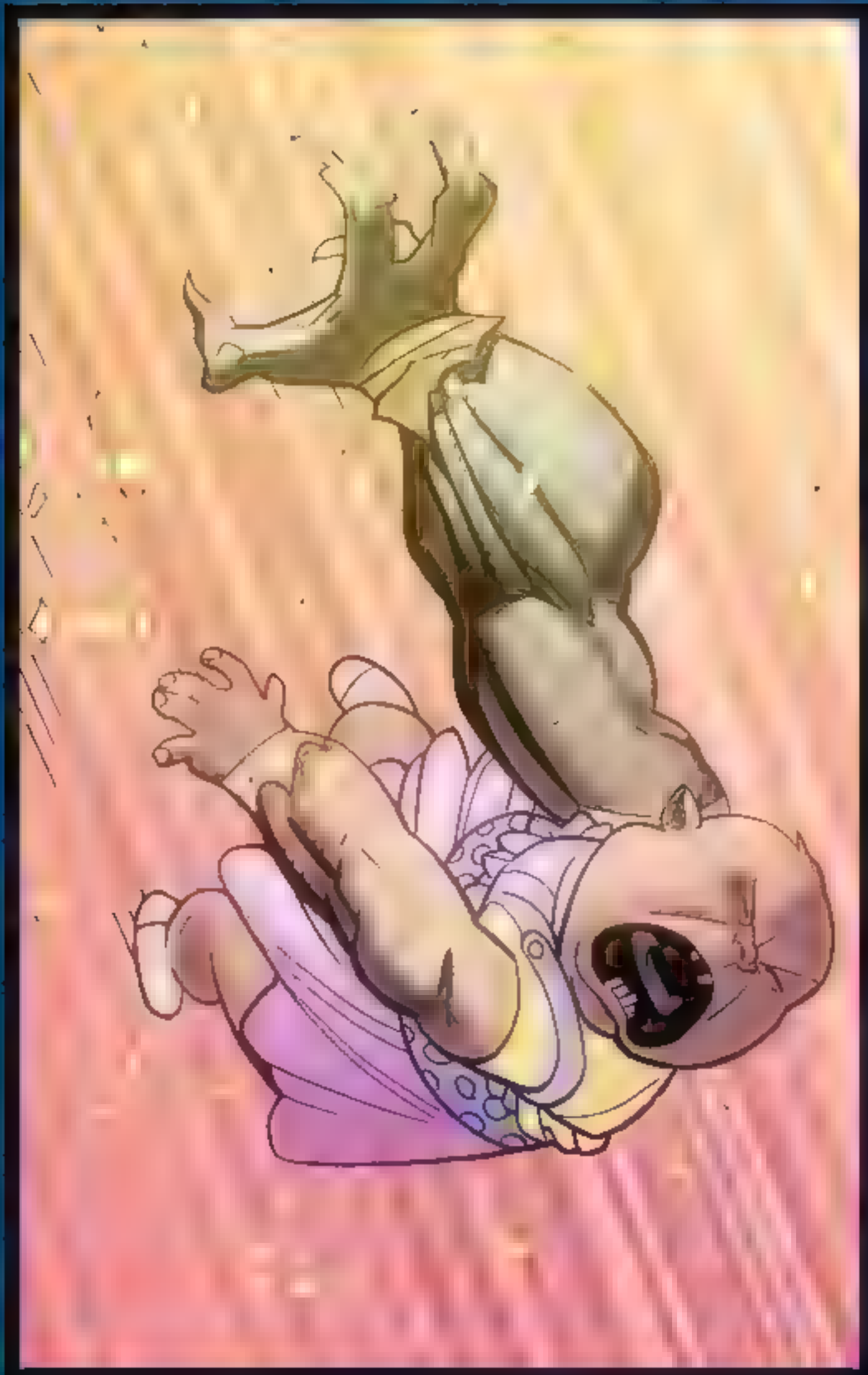
YOU'VE GOT TO ATTACK THEM--STALL THEM SO THIS CAN WORK. CAN YOU BUY US SOME TIME? MAYBE IF I WEAR ONE OF THE ROBOT SUITS--



THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW.

THEY BROUGHT THE MONSTER.





RRRUUMMMBLE!

OH, GOD--
HOW MUCH
MORE
TIME?!

IT'S DONE!
THE PROCESS IS
COMPLETE!

GO!



IT WORKED!
I'M IN THIS
BODY!

GO NOW--
WHILE
YOU STILL
CAN!

KROOM!



RUMMMBLE!

BE STERN
WITH THEM
AND THEY'LL
THINK YOU'RE
ME!

GOOD
LUCK!

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
US!



I TOLD YOU NOT TO ATTEMPT
A RESCUE! THE PROJECT IS
LOST, BUT I FEAR THEY NEVER
INTENDED TO COMPLETE IT. I
WAS BLINDED BY MY
AMBITION FOR THE
EMPIRE.

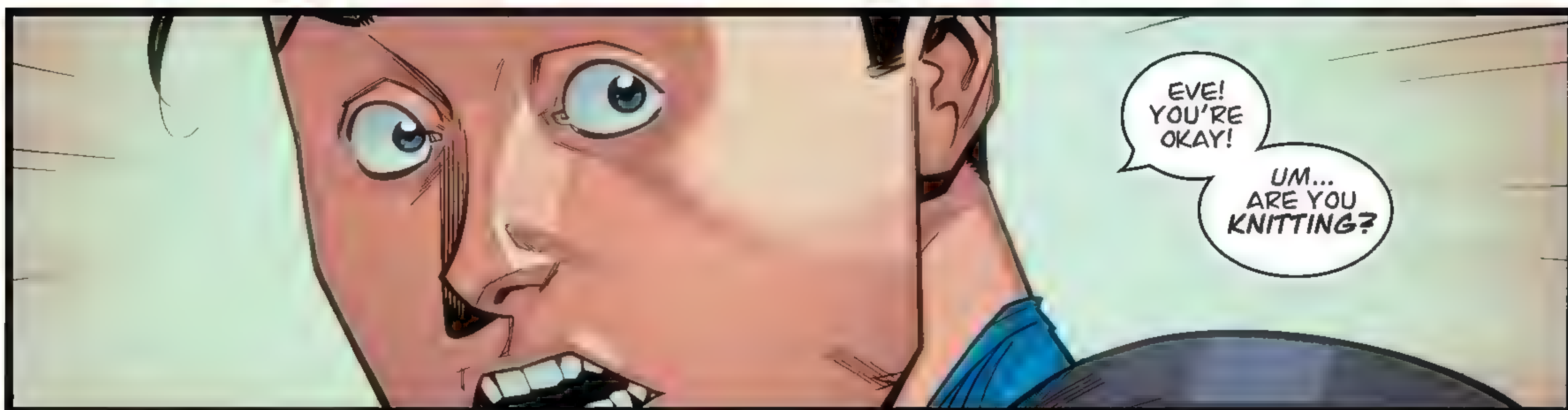
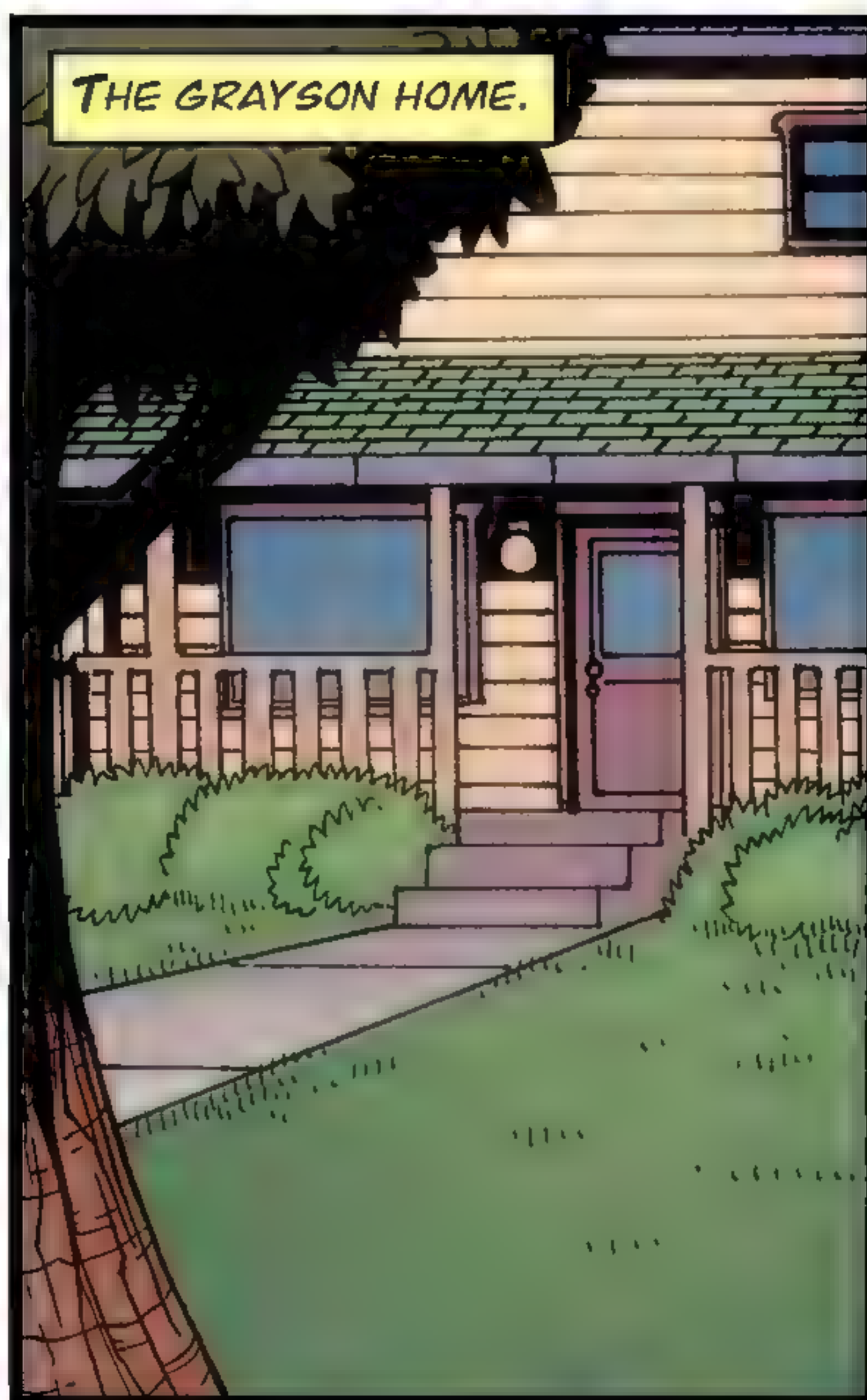
NOW THERE IS
MUCH TO BE DONE...
BUT IT DOESN'T
INVOLVE SO MANY
PEOPLE LOSING
THEIR LIVES--
**THE MONSTER
MUST BE
STOPPED!**

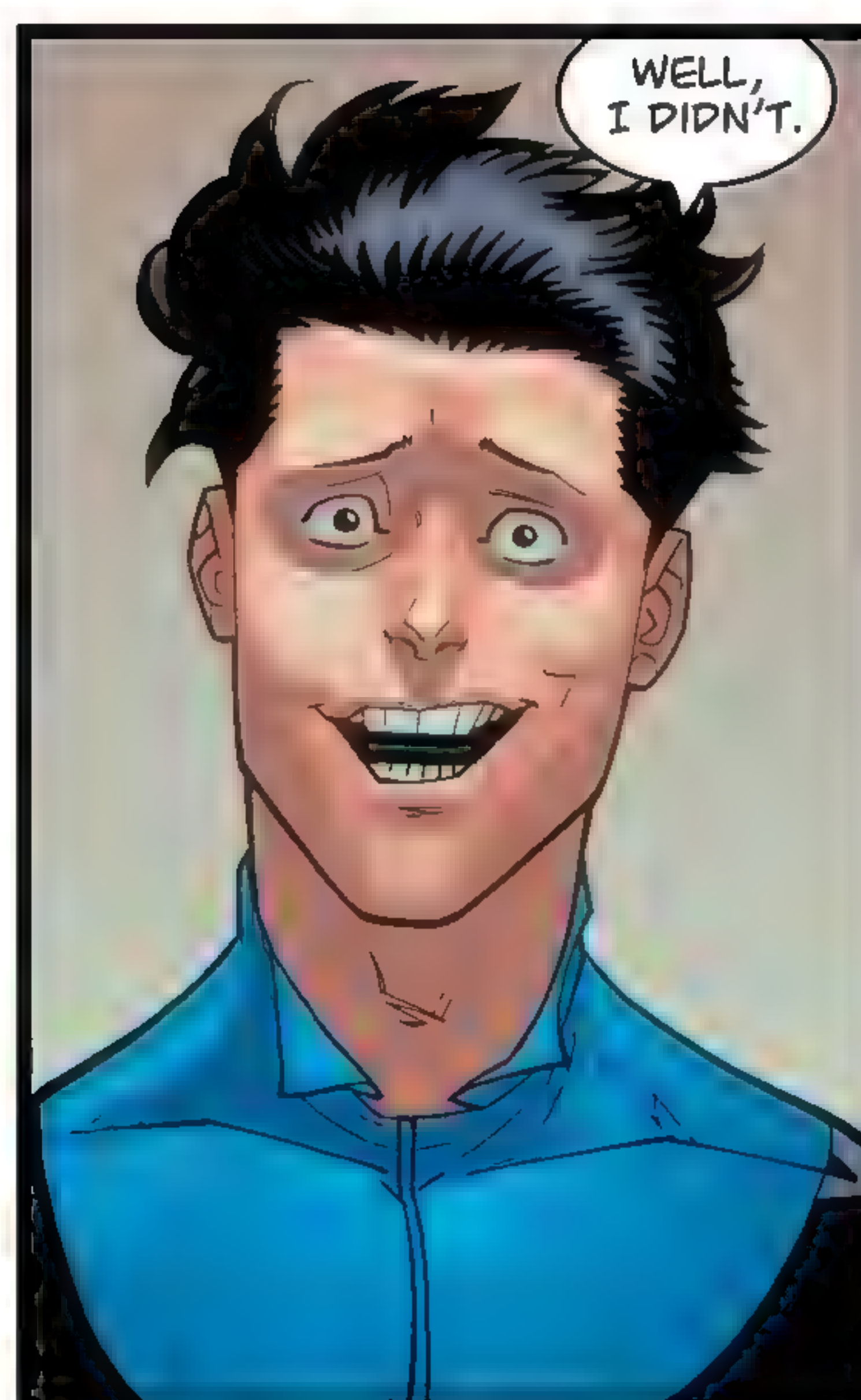
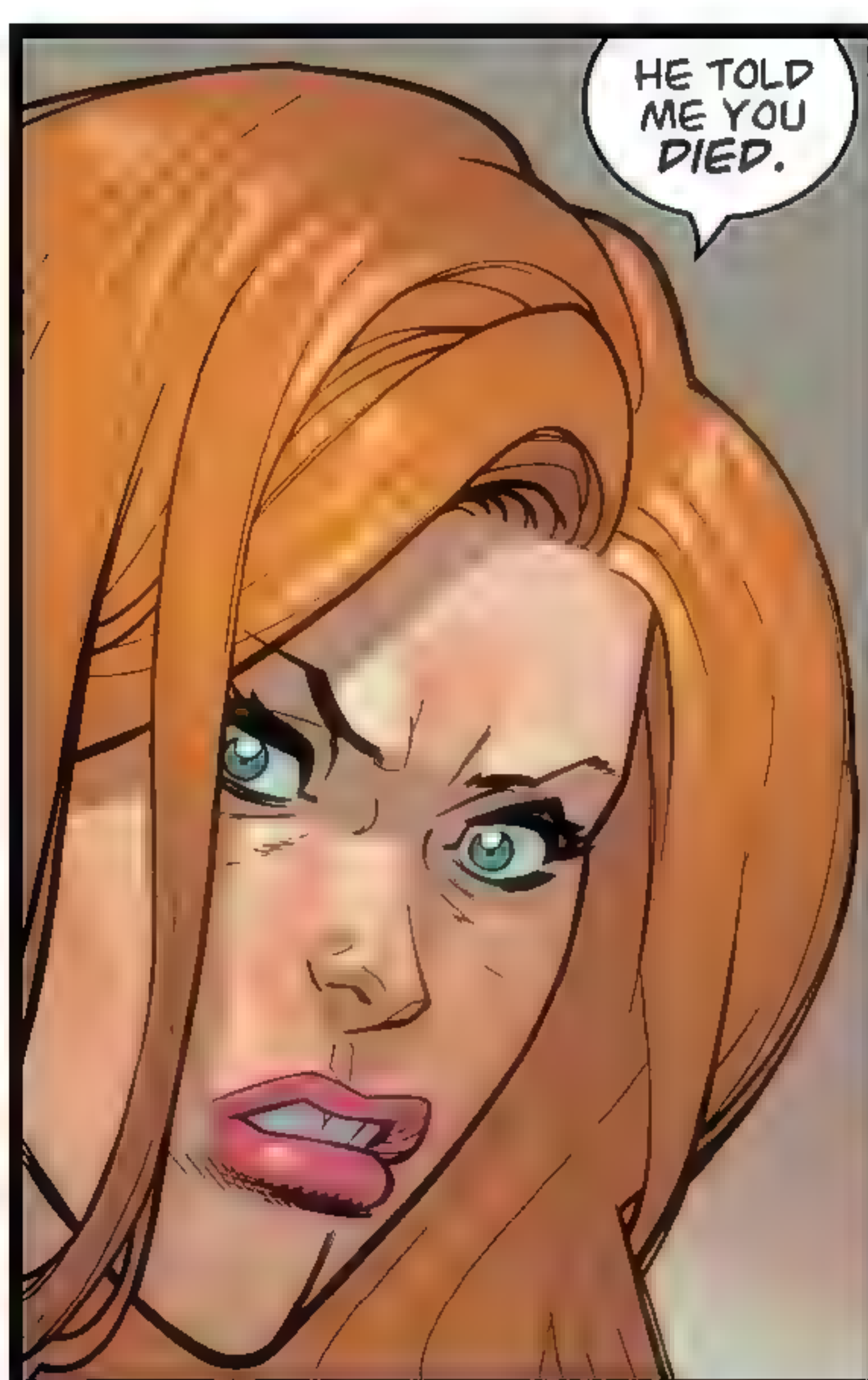
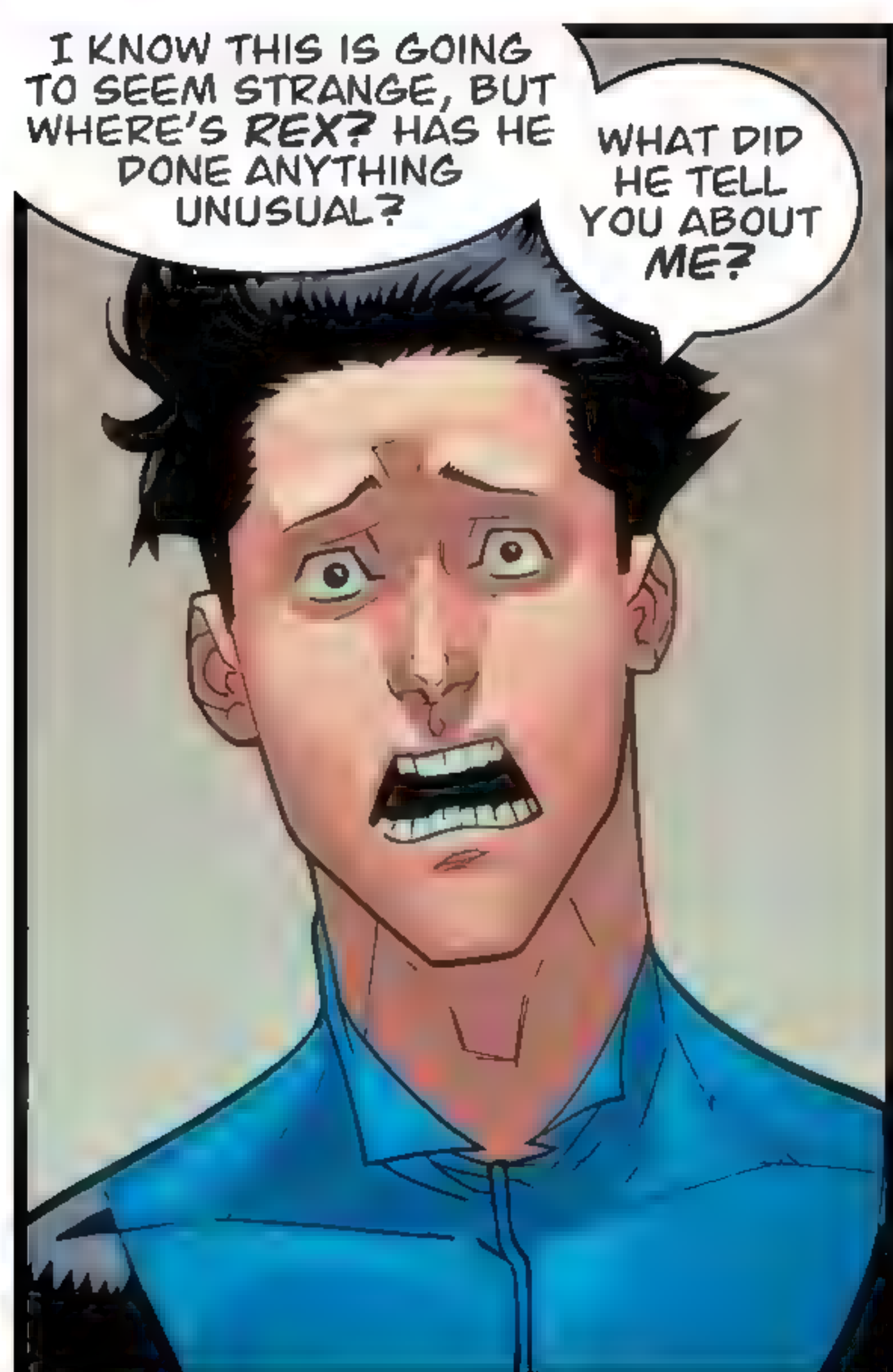
THIS IS
THE DAWN
OF A NEW
VILTRUM
EMPIRE!

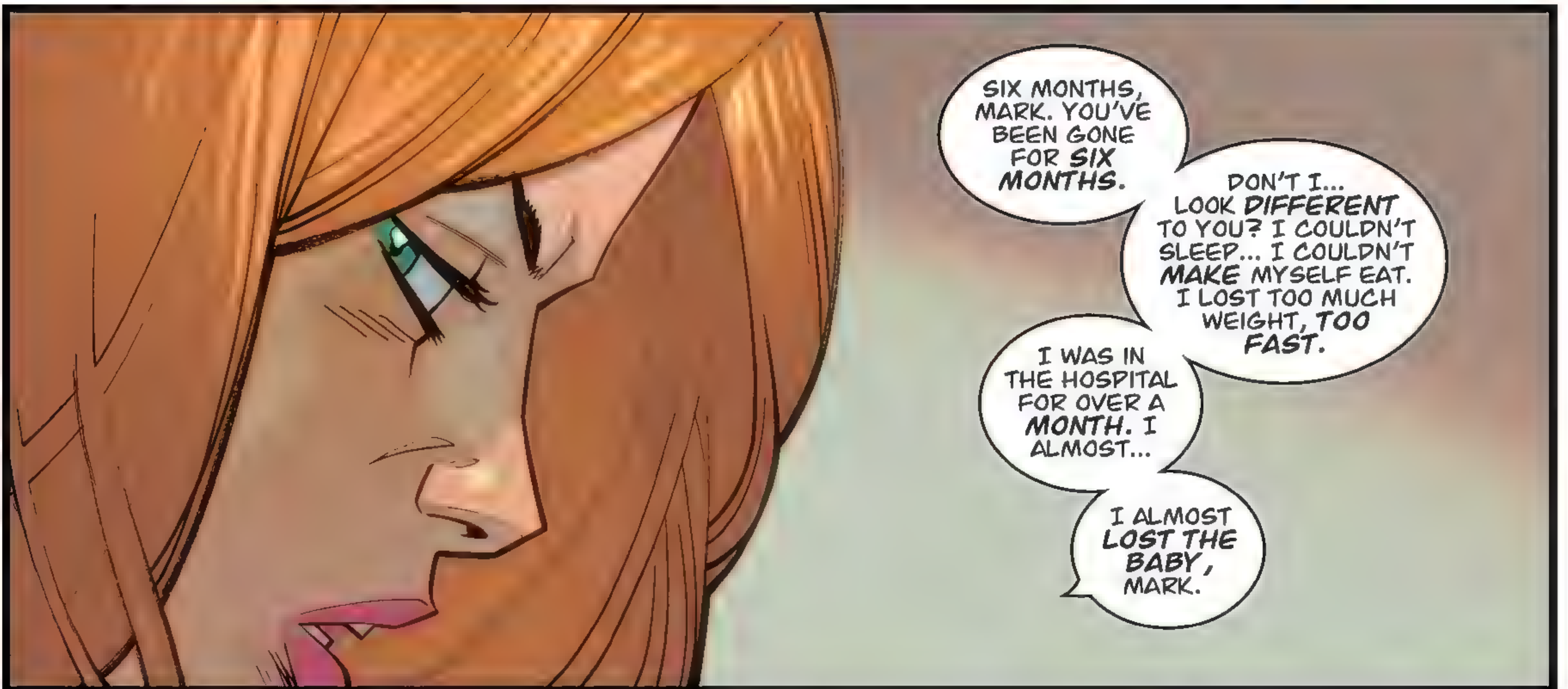
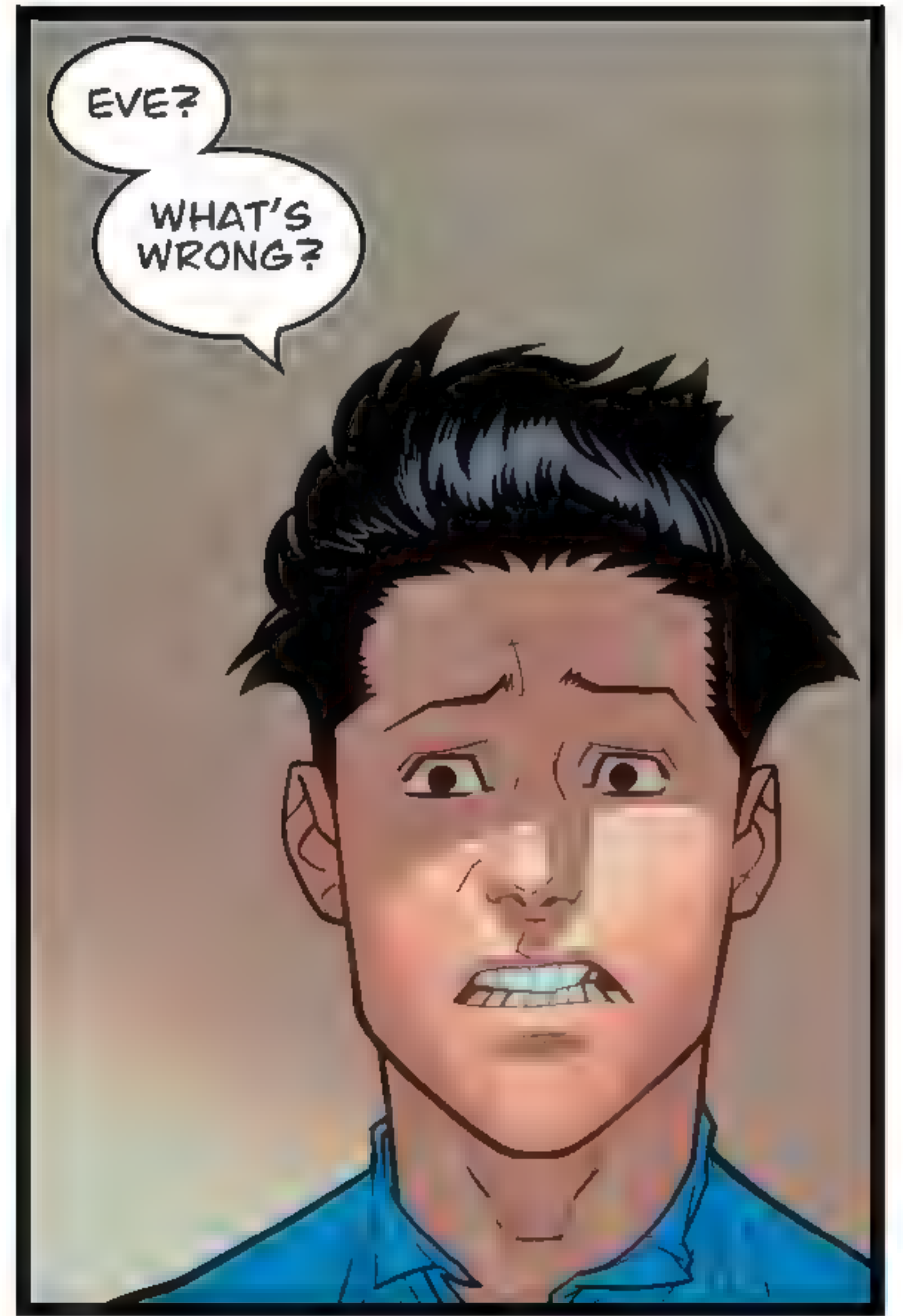
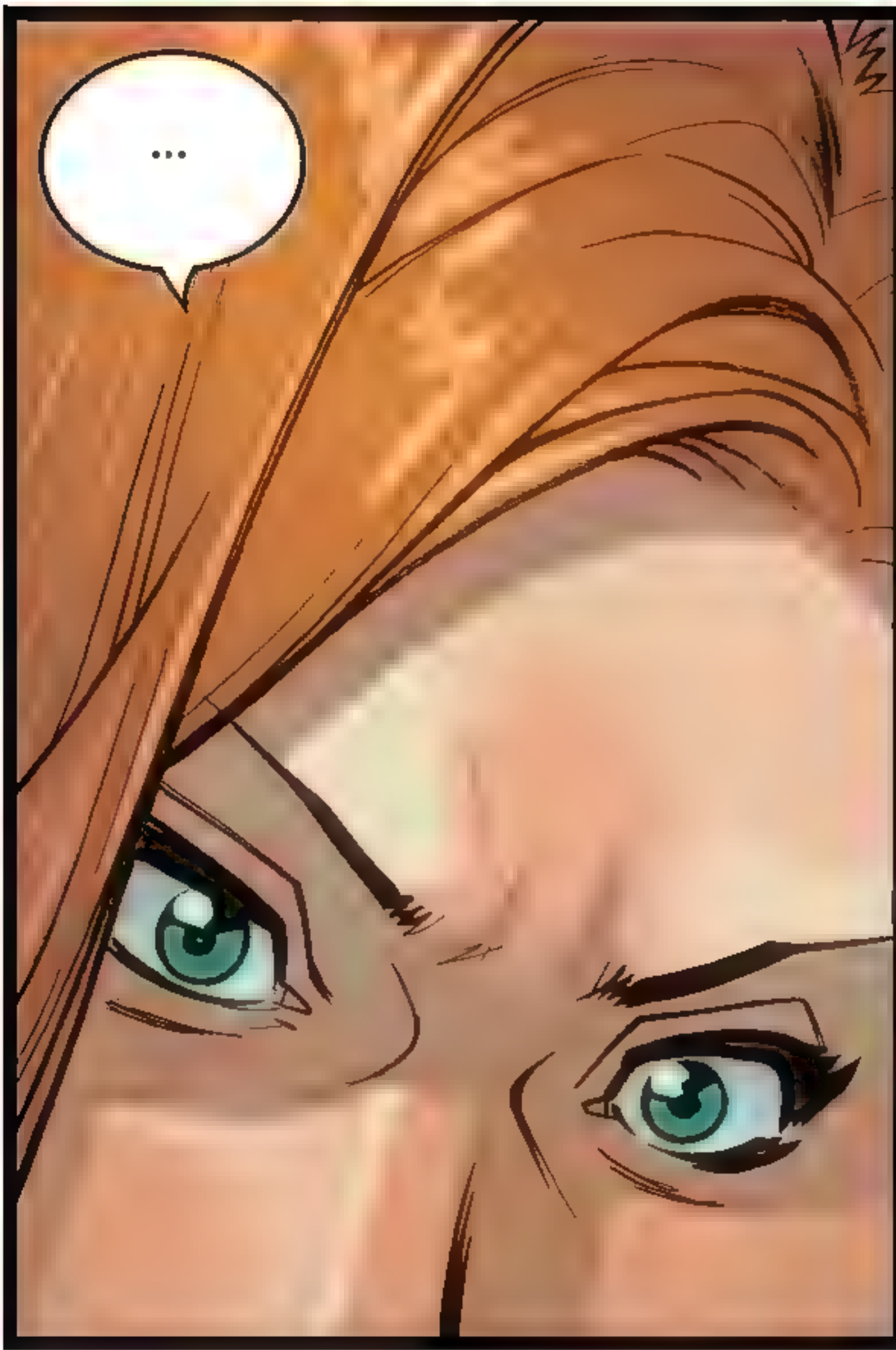
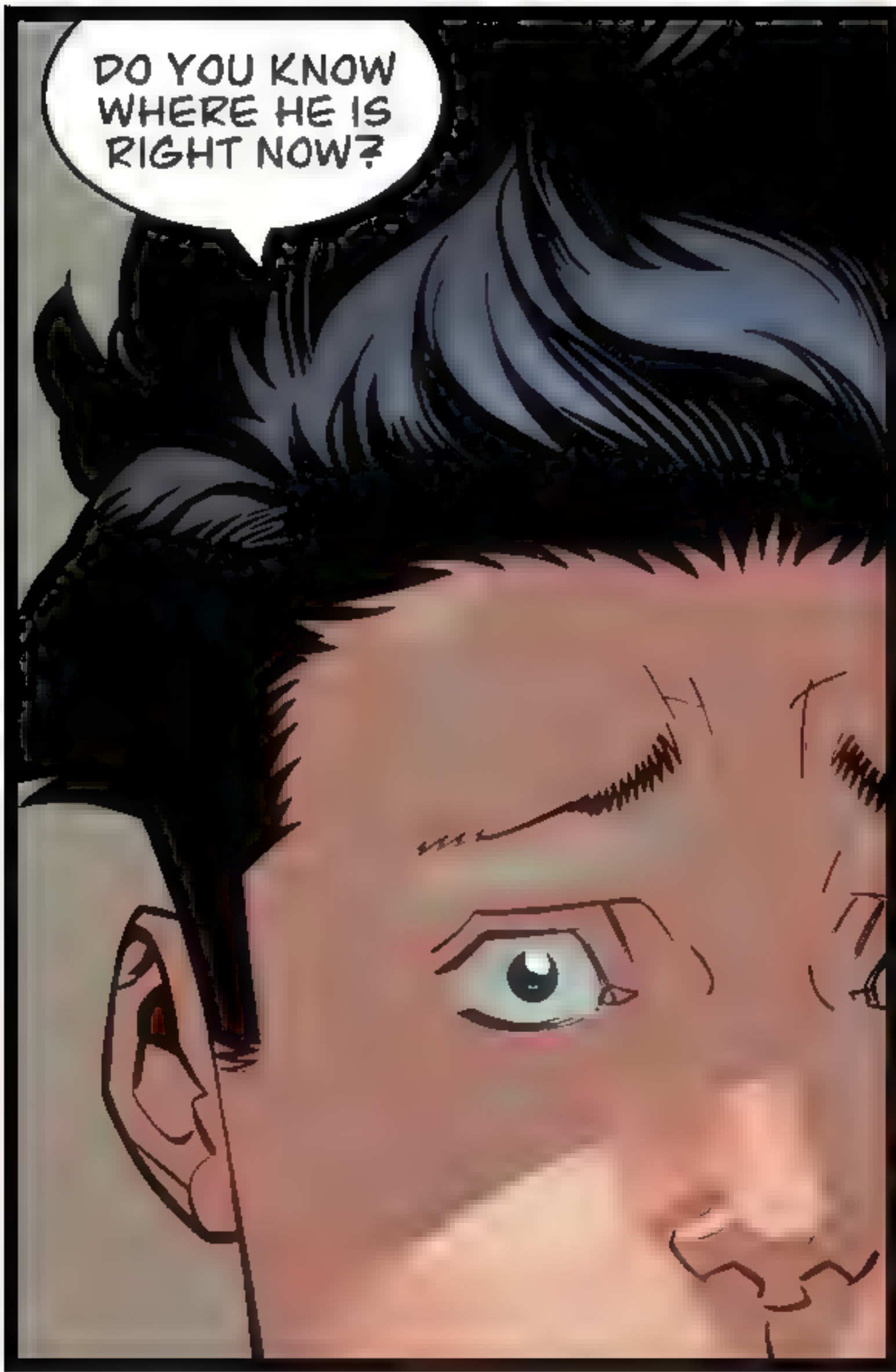


CHAPTER TWO





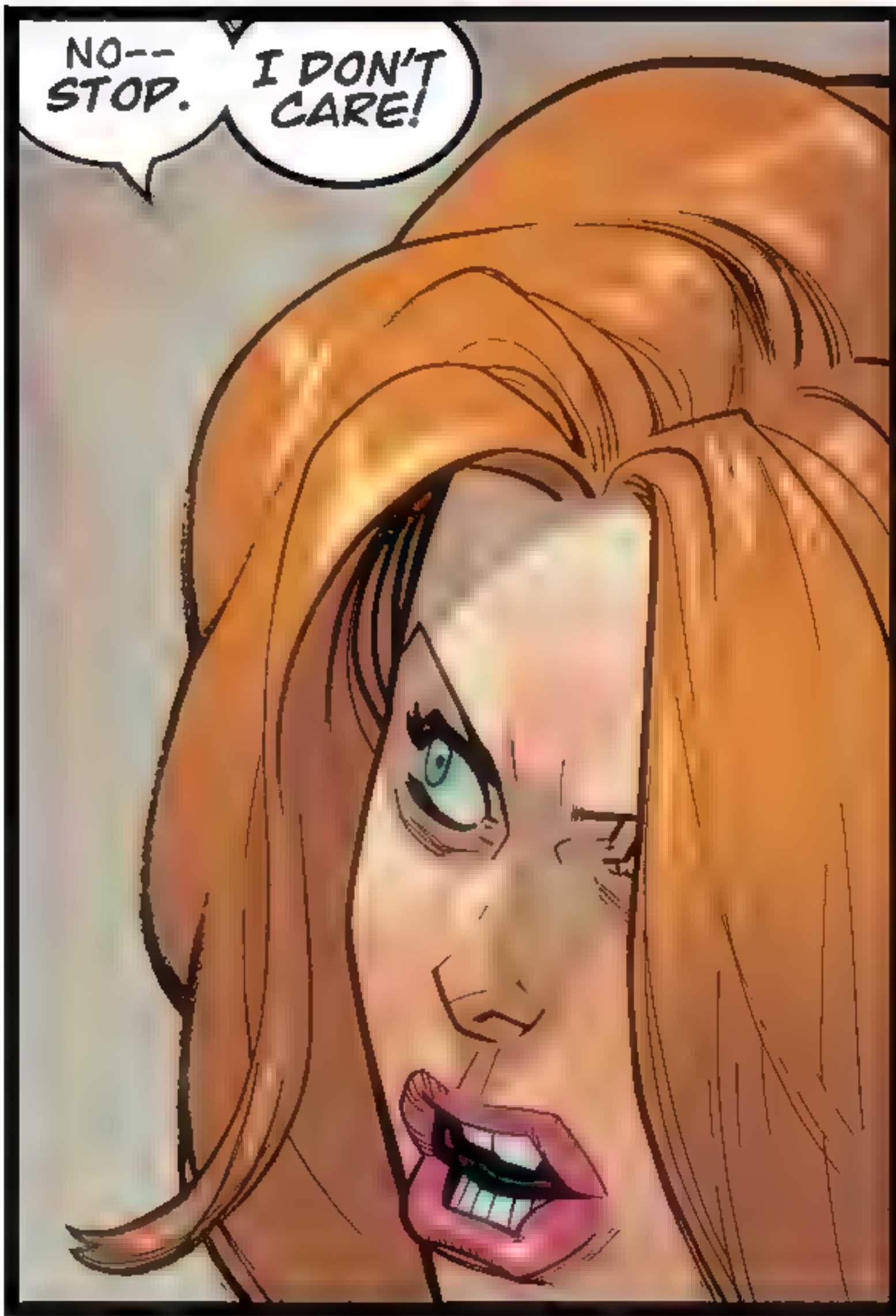






THAT'S NOT TRUE... NONE OF IT.

YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME--

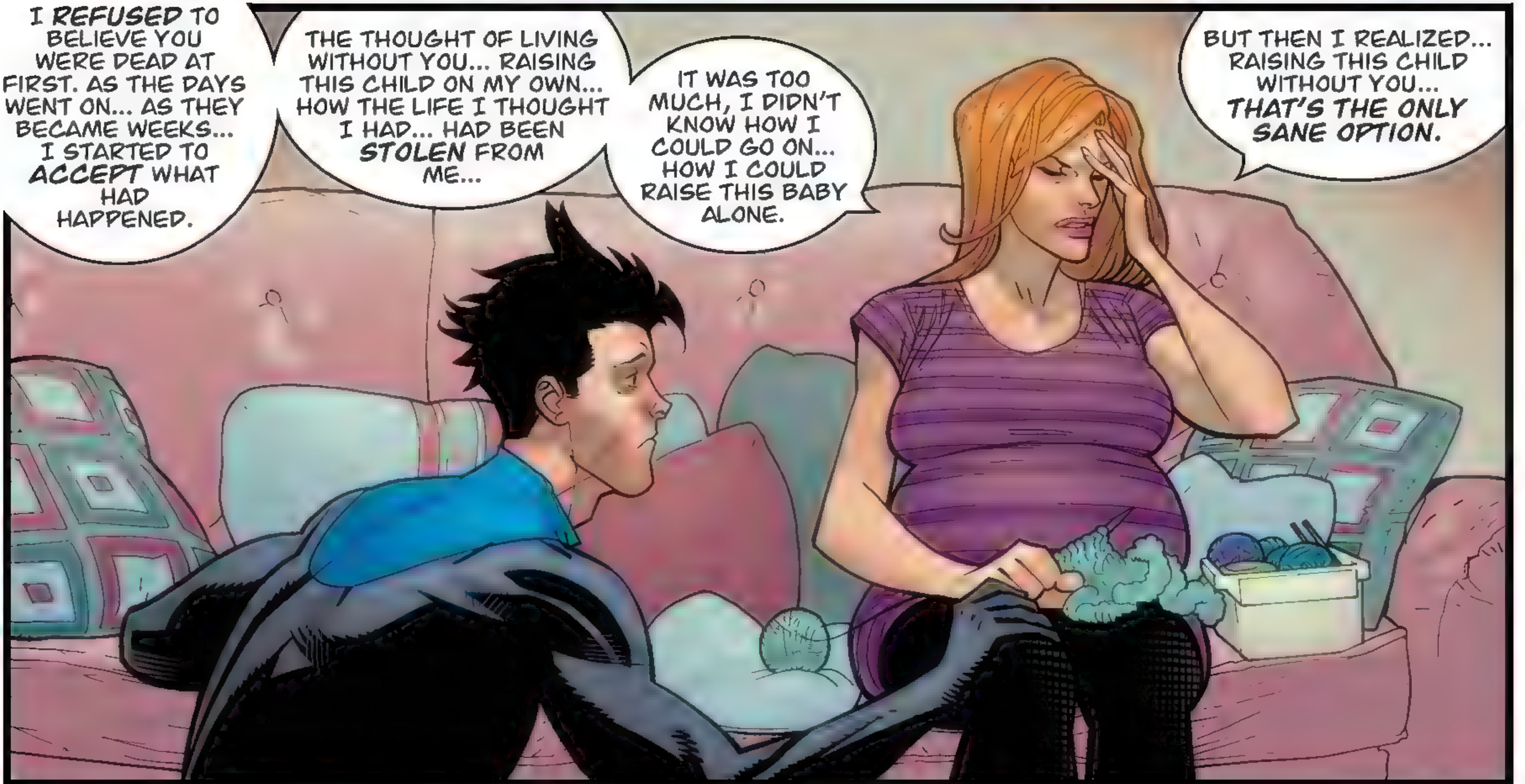


NO-- STOP.

I DON'T CARE!



EVE, PLEASE.



I REFUSED TO BELIEVE YOU WERE DEAD AT FIRST. AS THE DAYS WENT ON... AS THEY BECAME WEEKS... I STARTED TO ACCEPT WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

THE THOUGHT OF LIVING WITHOUT YOU... RAISING THIS CHILD ON MY OWN... HOW THE LIFE I THOUGHT I HAD... HAD BEEN **STOLEN** FROM ME...

IT WAS TOO MUCH, I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I COULD GO ON... HOW I COULD RAISE THIS BABY ALONE.

BUT THEN I REALIZED... RAISING THIS CHILD WITHOUT YOU... **THAT'S THE ONLY SANE OPTION.**

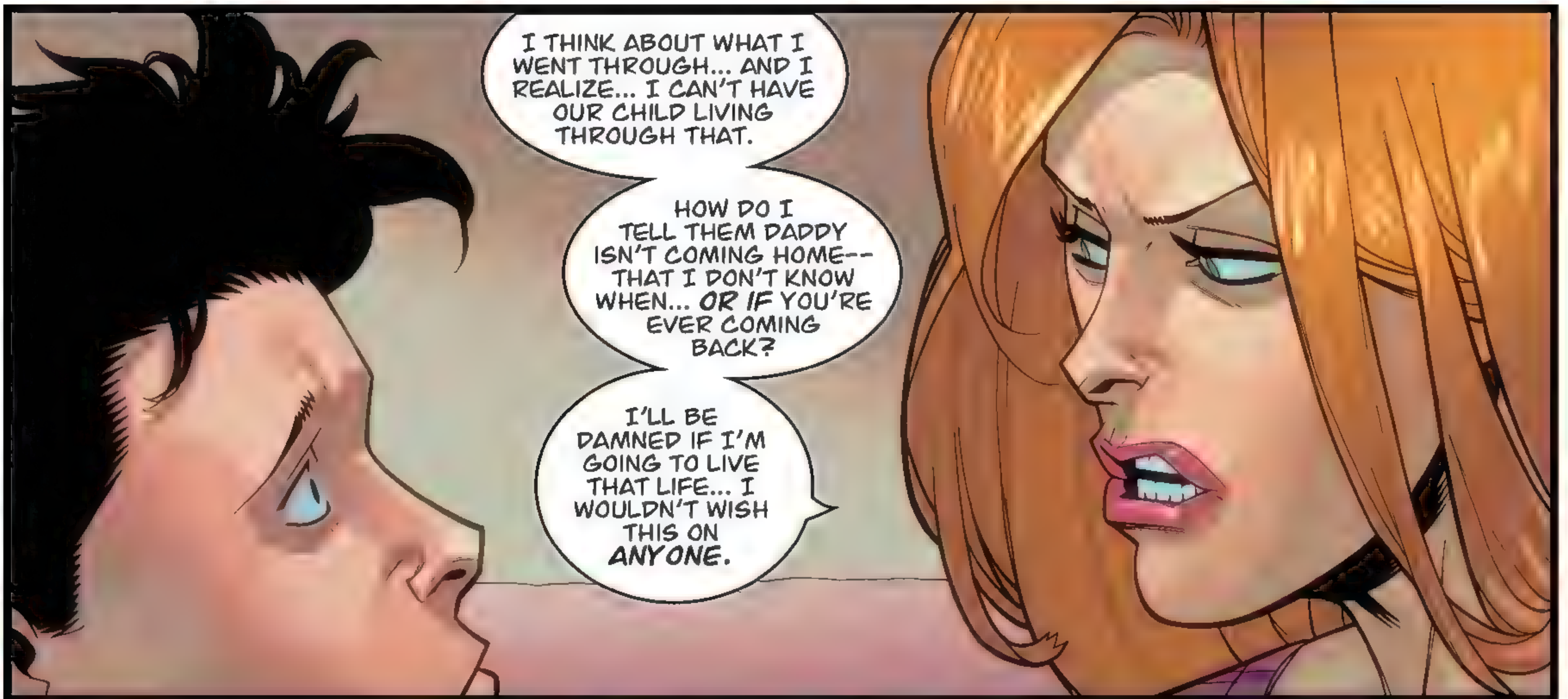


EVE... YOU'RE NOT WEARING YOUR RING.



NO, MARK.

I'M NOT.



I THINK ABOUT WHAT I WENT THROUGH... AND I REALIZE... I CAN'T HAVE OUR CHILD LIVING THROUGH THAT.

HOW DO I TELL THEM DADDY ISN'T COMING HOME-- THAT I DON'T KNOW WHEN... OR IF YOU'RE EVER COMING BACK?

I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M GOING TO LIVE THAT LIFE... I WOULDN'T WISH THIS ON ANYONE.

YOU'RE RIGHT... ABOUT EVERYTHING. YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ANGSTROM, TOO... I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GONE AFTER HIM. AND I KNOW IT'S NOT ENOUGH, BUT I'M SORRY. YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT.

I WANT TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T RIGHT NOW. THERE'S TOO MUCH HAPPENING.

I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME AND--

ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

I KNOW YOU'RE ANGRY, BUT...



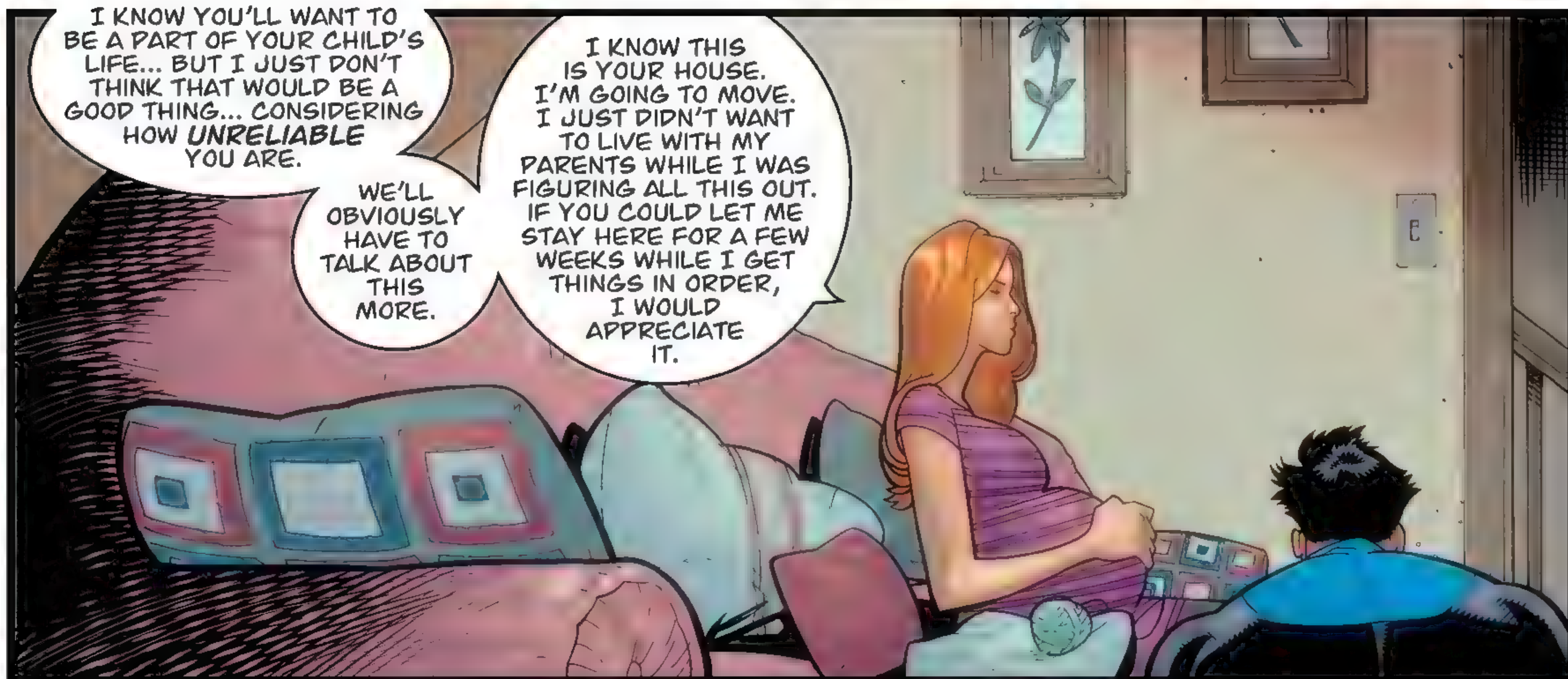
I'M NOT ANGRY. I'M NOT EVEN RAISING MY VOICE. I'M JUST TELLING YOU HOW THINGS ARE NOW. WELCOME HOME, MARK. I'M GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE, BUT...

I DON'T EVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WE'RE THROUGH.



WHAT?!



I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO BE A PART OF YOUR CHILD'S LIFE... BUT I JUST DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD THING... CONSIDERING HOW **UNRELIABLE** YOU ARE.

WE'LL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS MORE.

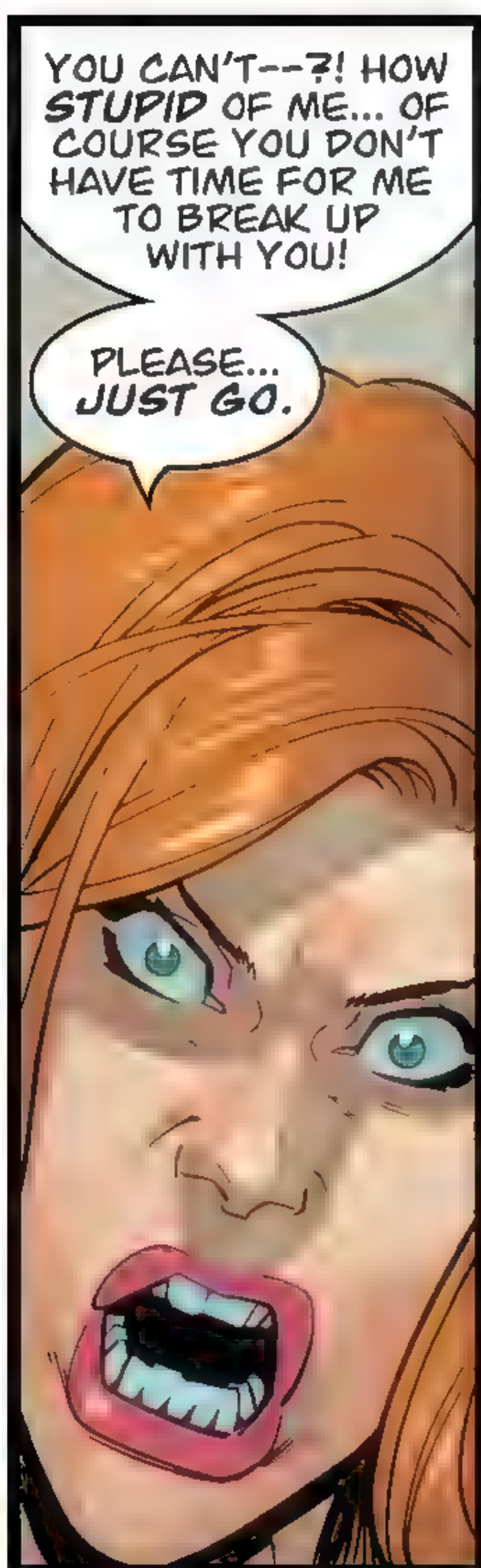
I KNOW THIS IS YOUR HOUSE. I'M GOING TO MOVE. I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO LIVE WITH MY PARENTS WHILE I WAS FIGURING ALL THIS OUT. IF YOU COULD LET ME STAY HERE FOR A FEW WEEKS WHILE I GET THINGS IN ORDER, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT.



PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. NOT RIGHT NOW. THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON THAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT. WE NEED TO **LEAVE** HERE... TOGETHER. YOU COULD BE IN DANGER.

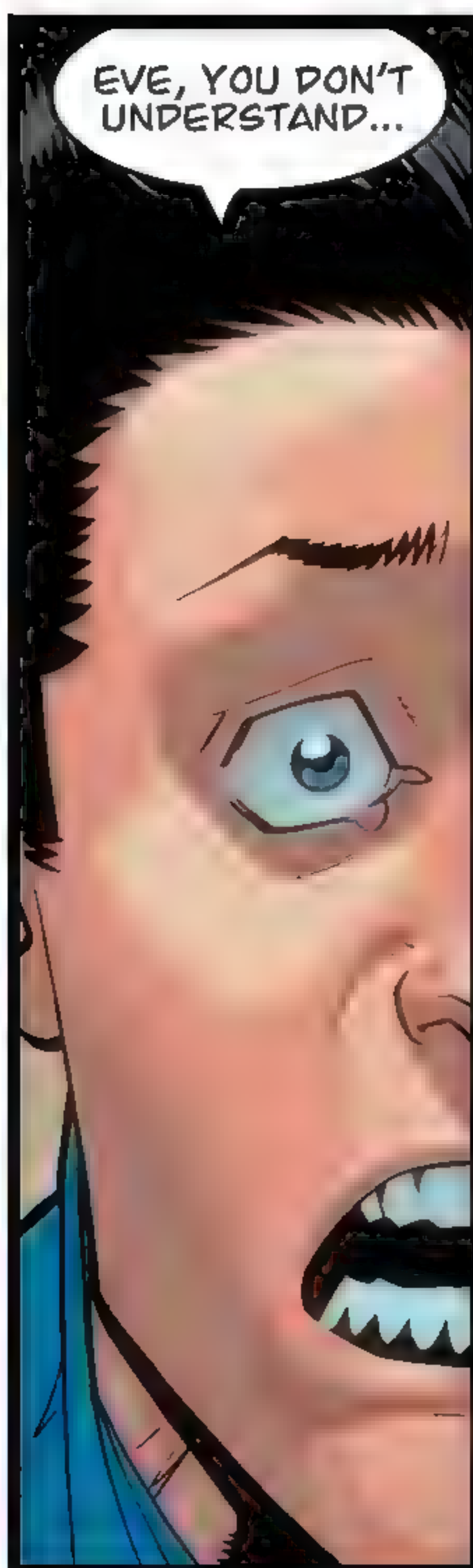
SO MANY PEOPLE COULD BE IN DANGER.

I JUST... I CAN'T DO THIS RIGHT NOW.

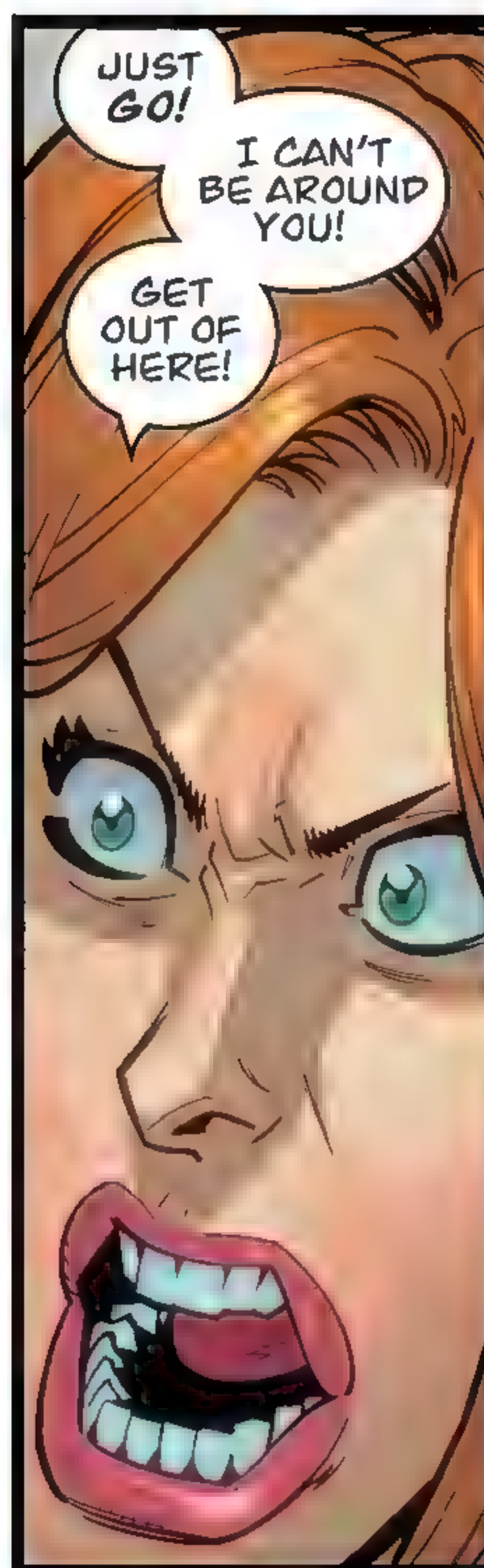


YOU CAN'T--?! HOW **STUPID** OF ME... OF COURSE YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ME TO BREAK UP WITH YOU!

PLEASE... **JUST GO.**



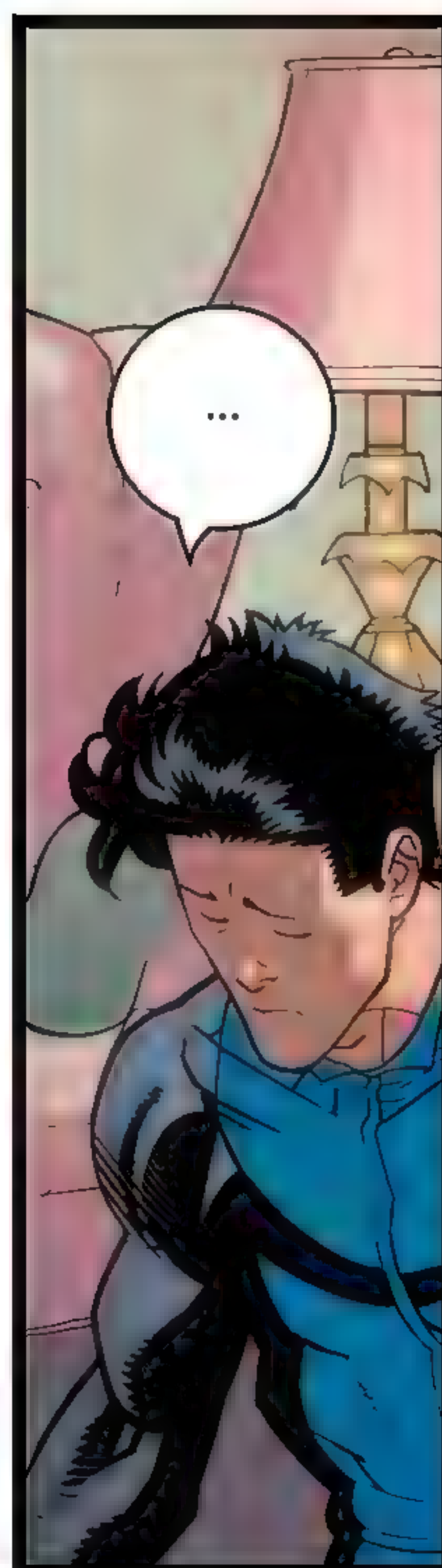
EVE, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...



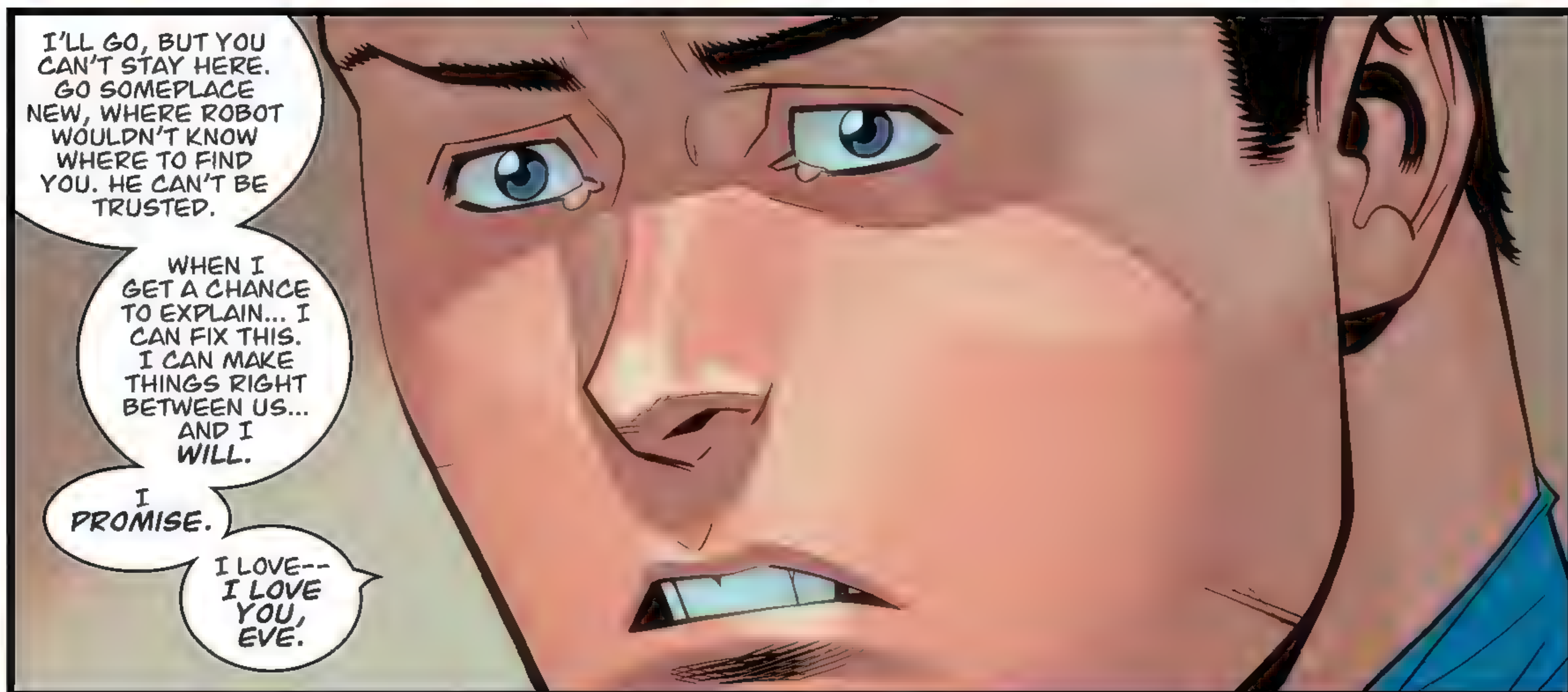
JUST GO!

I CAN'T BE AROUND YOU!

GET OUT OF HERE!



...

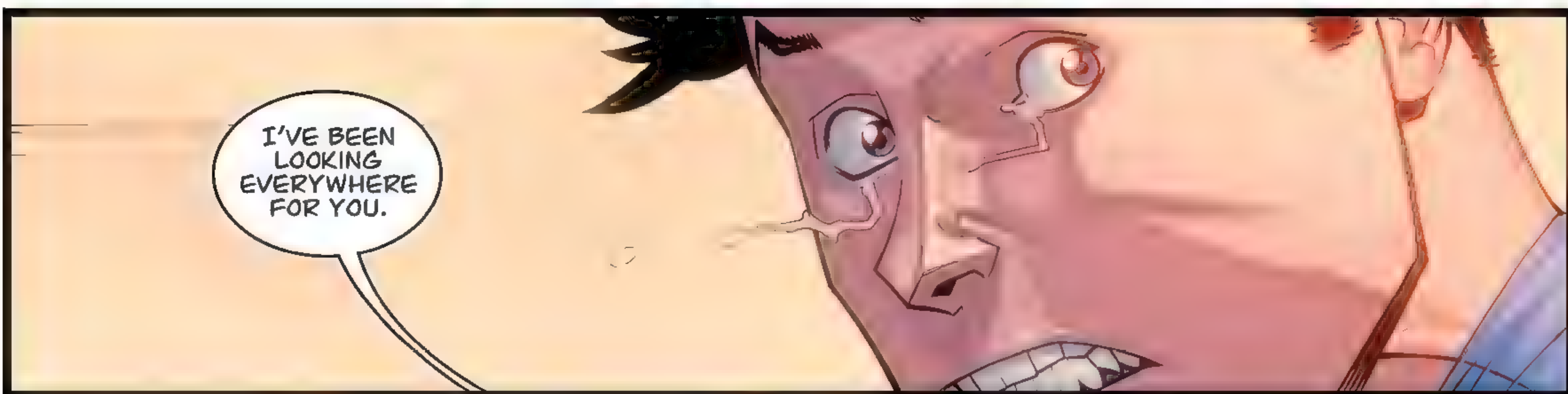
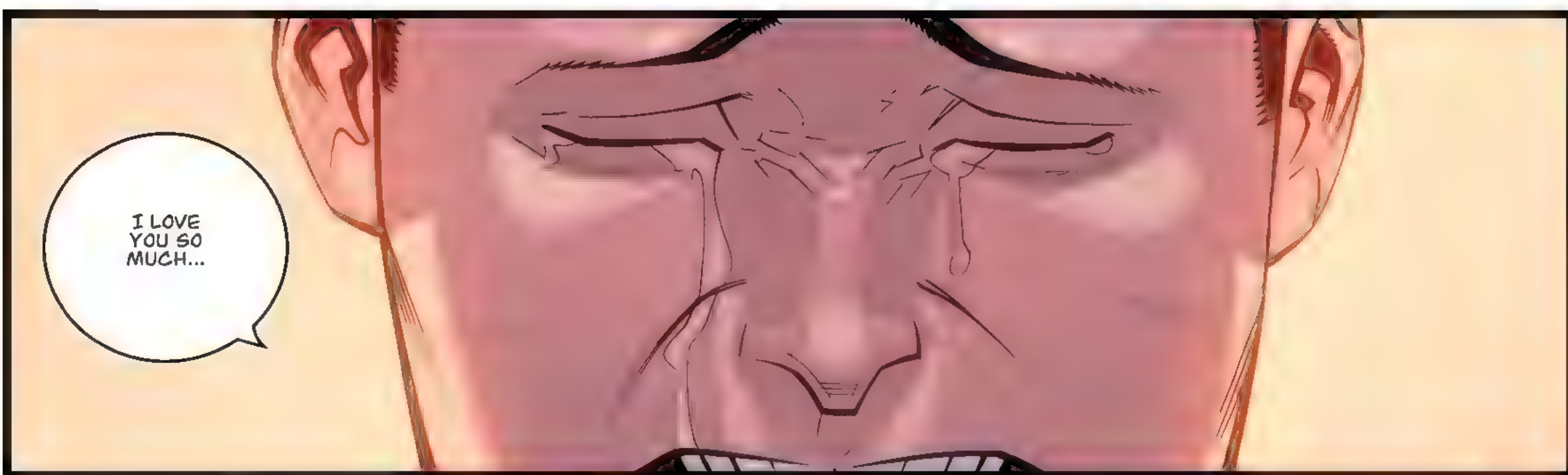


I'LL GO, BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE. GO SOMEPLACE NEW, WHERE ROBOT WOULDN'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND YOU. HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

WHEN I GET A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN... I CAN FIX THIS. I CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT BETWEEN US... AND I **WILL.**

I **PROMISE.**

I LOVE-- I LOVE YOU, EVE.





WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?



NONE OF YOUR--

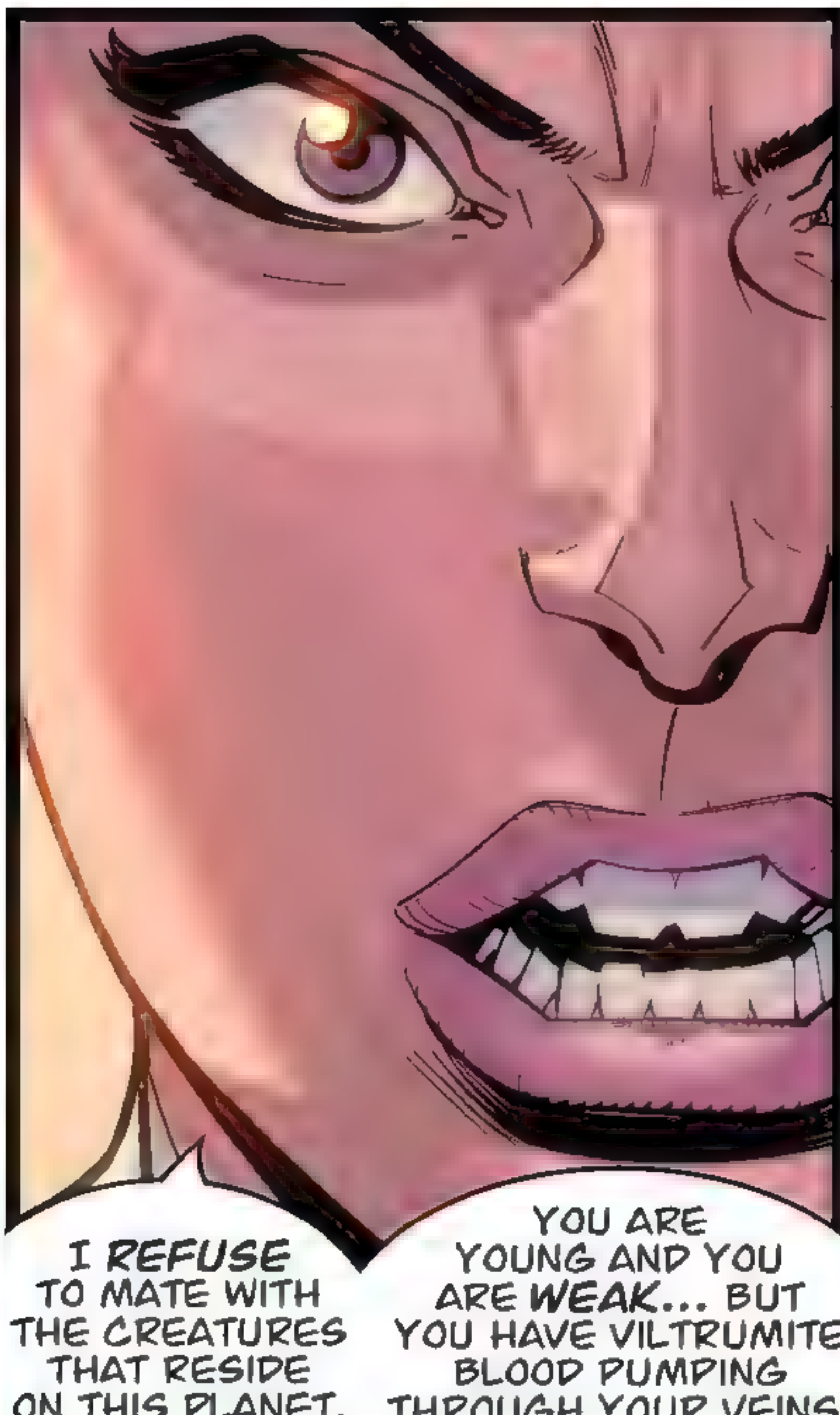
I DON'T HAVE **TIME** FOR THIS. YOU KNOW OUR MISSION HERE. WE ARE TO PROCREATE, MAKE MORE VILTRUMITE HALF-BREEDS SO THEY CAN ADD TO OUR RANKS AND PREVENT OUR EXTINCTION.

THE MALES OF OUR RACE ARE PERFORMING **ADMIRABLY**. MANY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN CREATED ALREADY.

I AM NOT FULFILLING MY DUTY.



I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, BUT--
STOP.



I **REFUSE** TO MATE WITH THE CREATURES THAT RESIDE ON THIS PLANET.

YOU ARE YOUNG AND YOU ARE **WEAK**... BUT YOU HAVE VILTRUMITE BLOOD PUMPING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.



SO YOU'LL DO.

FLATTERED, BUT NO... I'M **TAKEN**. REALLY. I'M NOT INTERESTED.

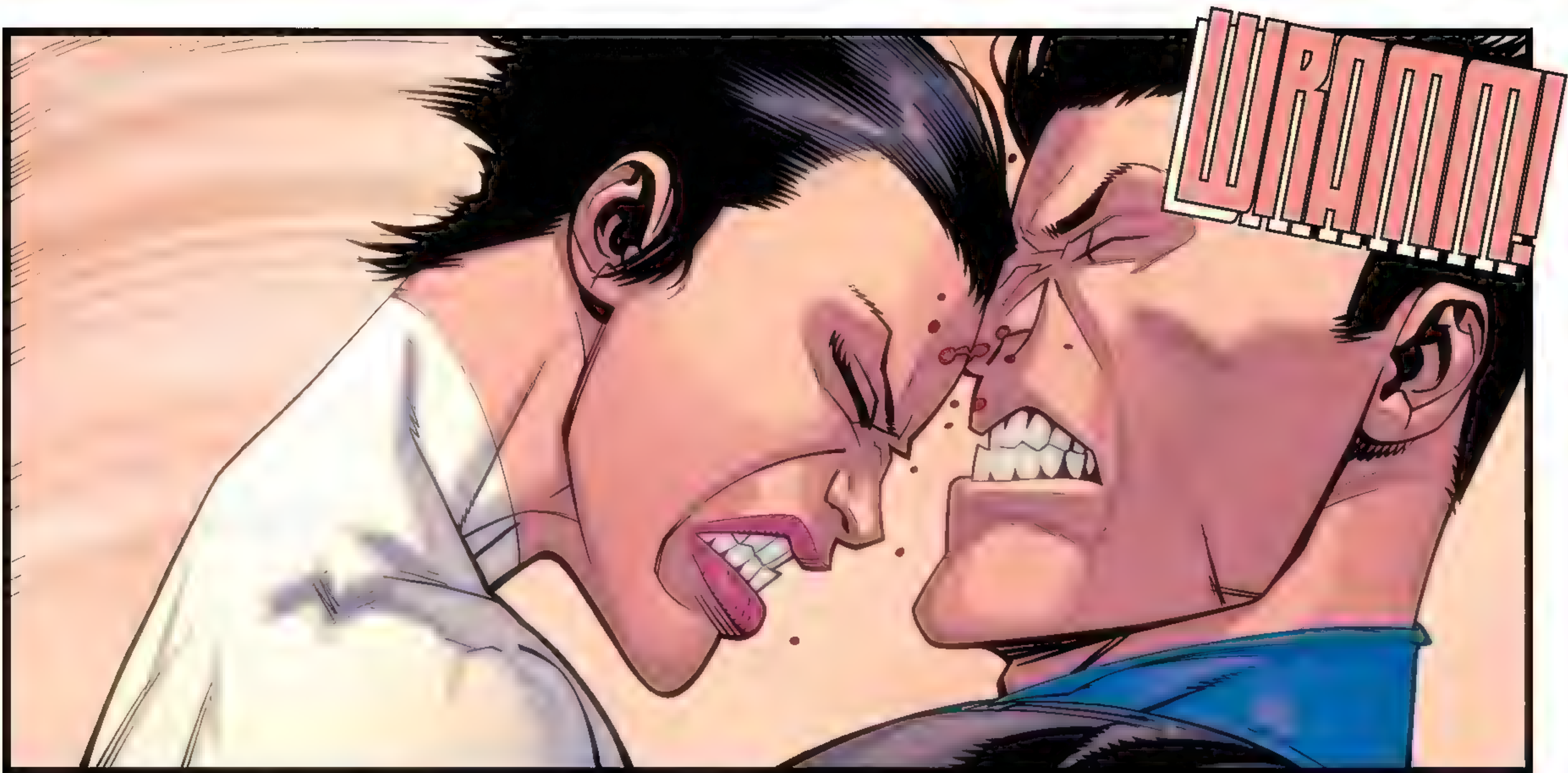
AND I'VE GOT SOMEWHERE ELSE I **REALLY** NEED TO BE.

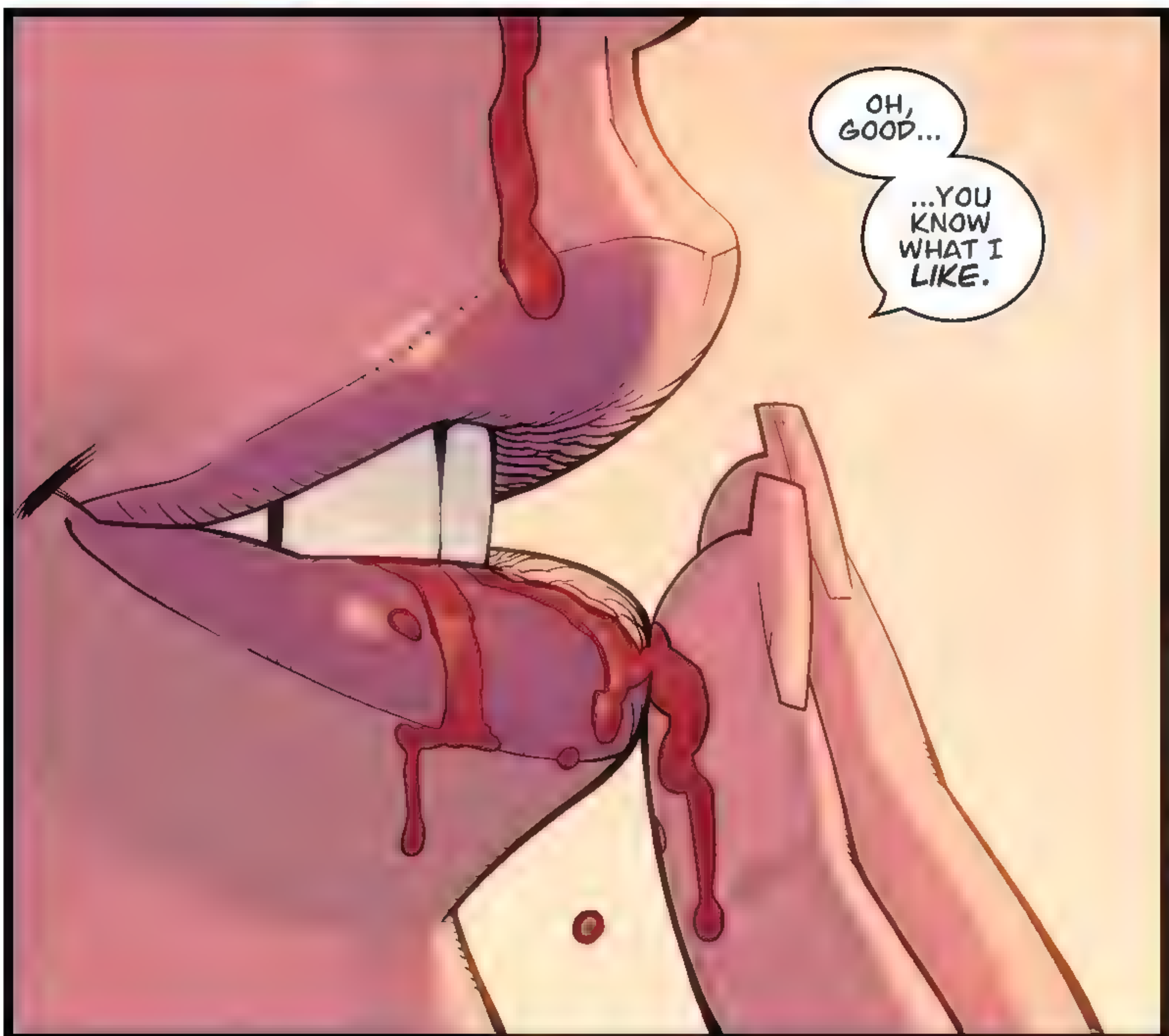
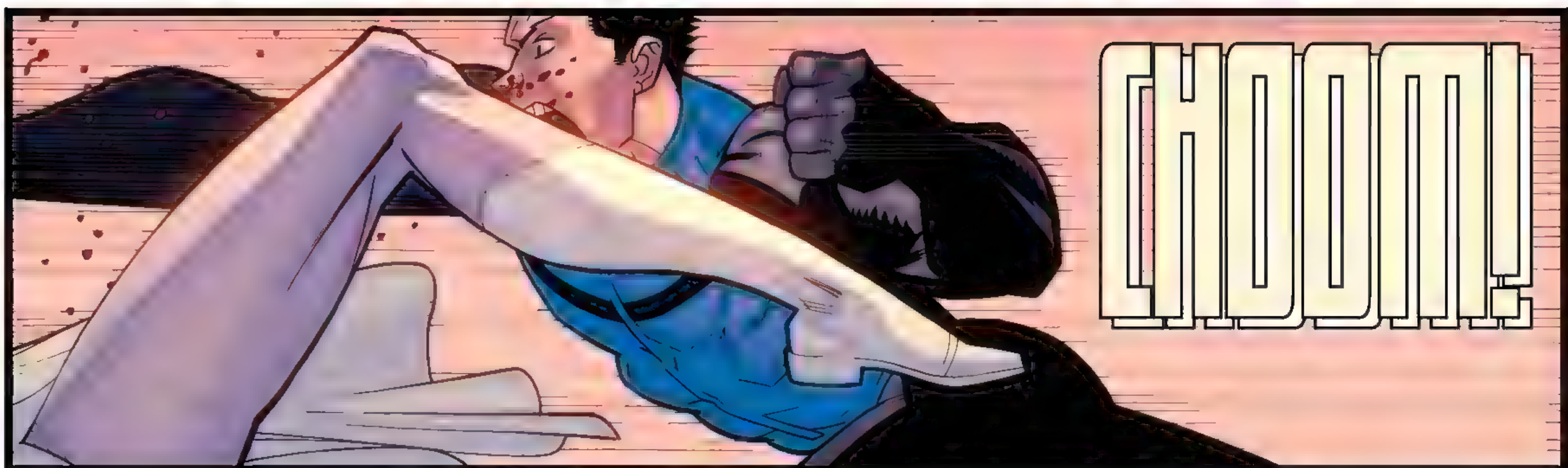
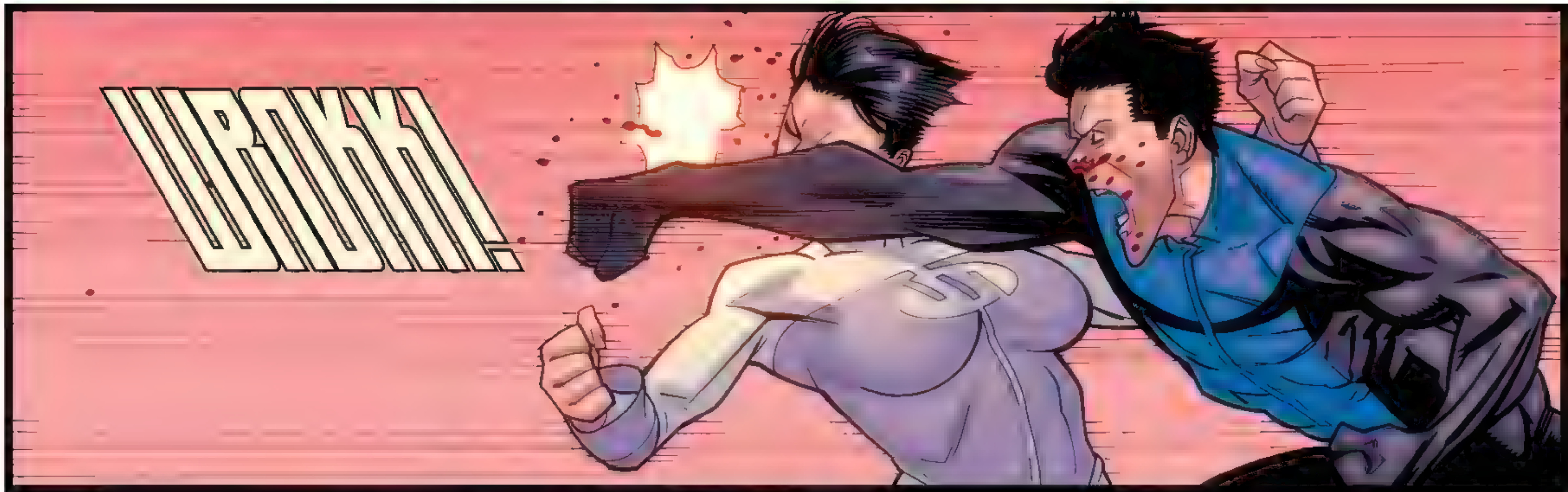


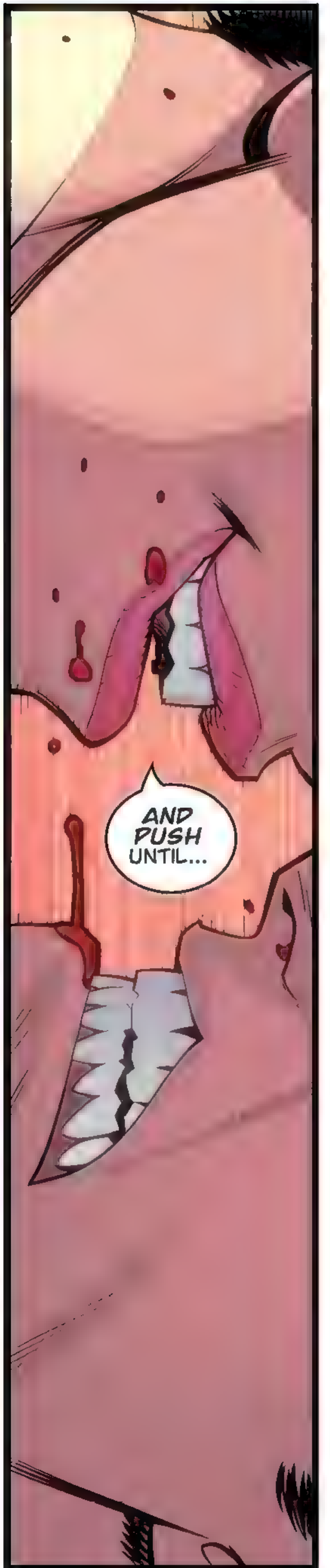
SO--
BYE!

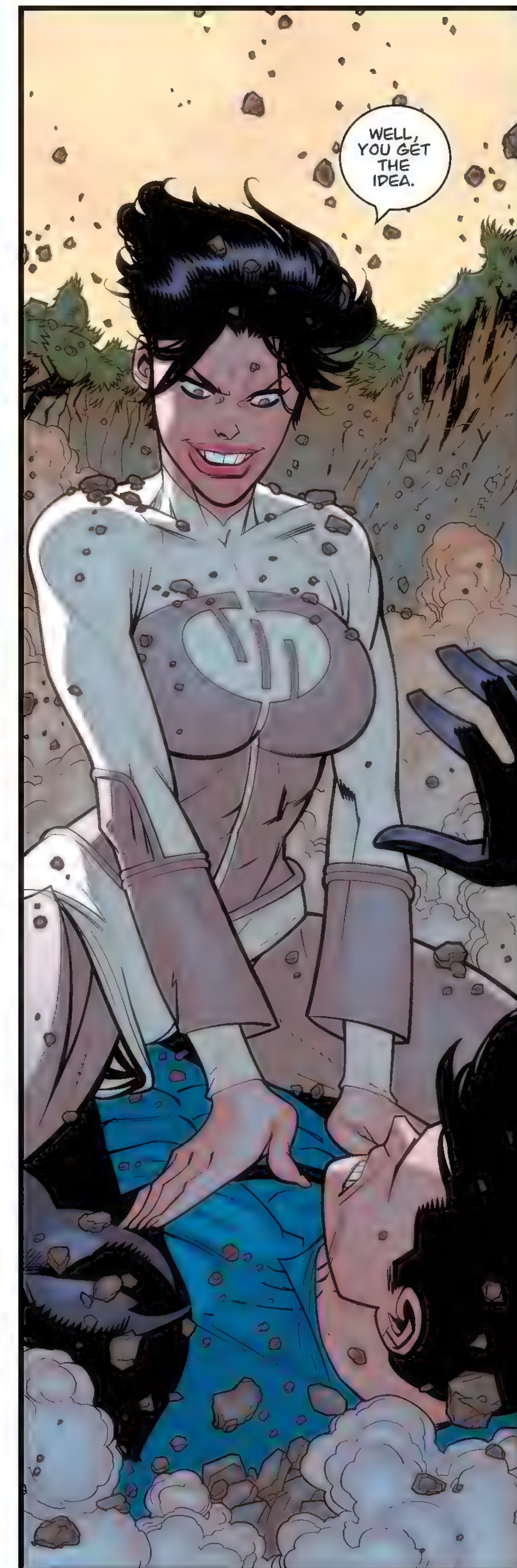
I SAID--

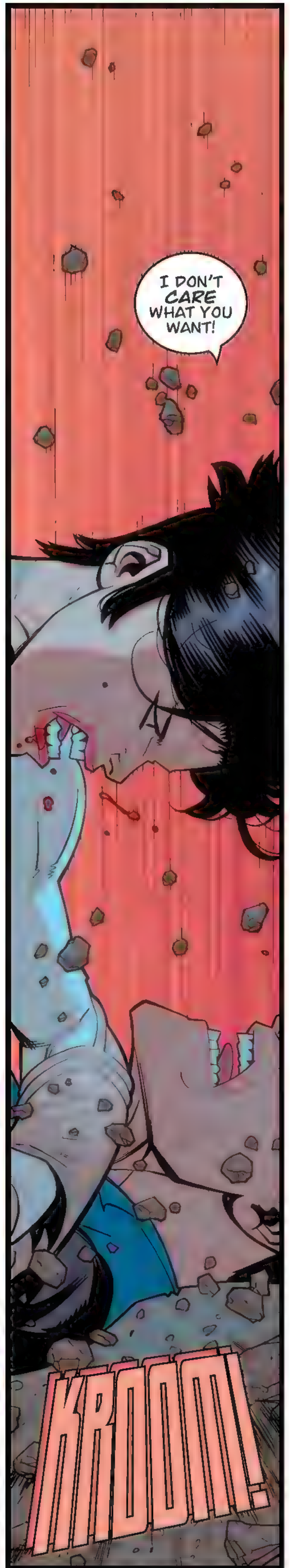
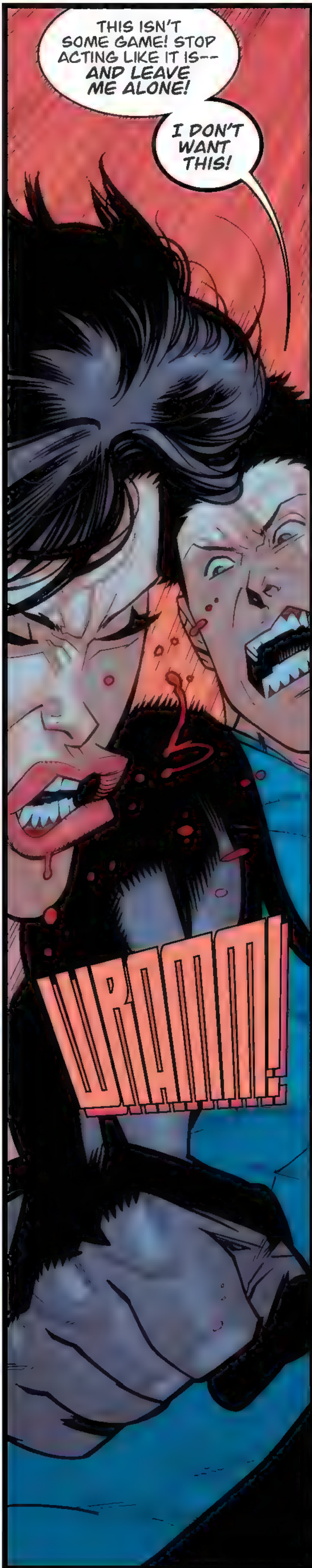
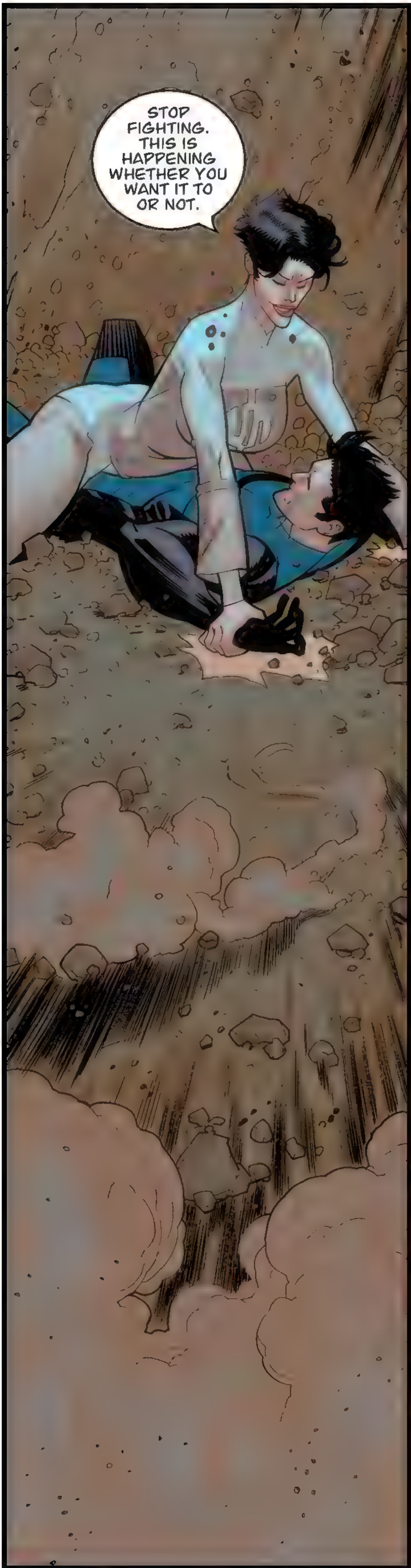


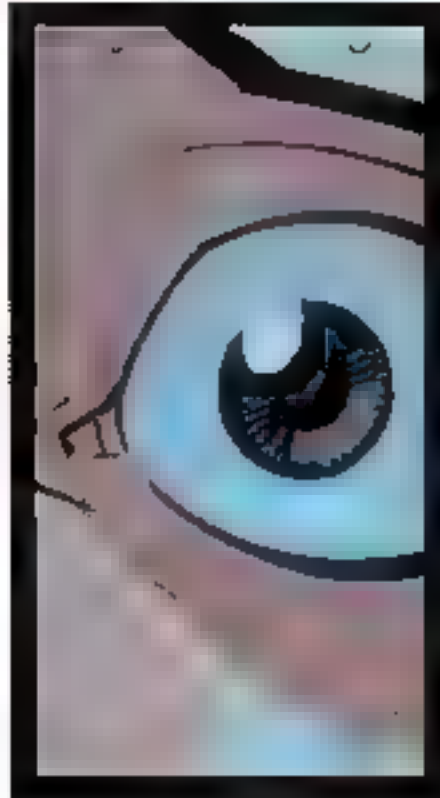
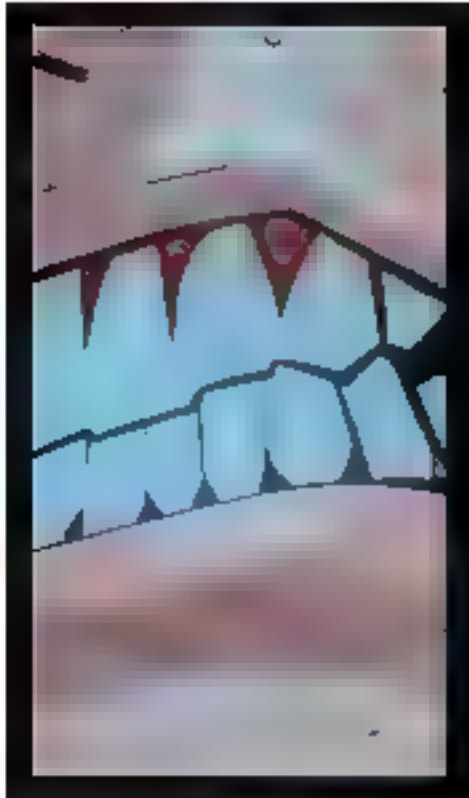
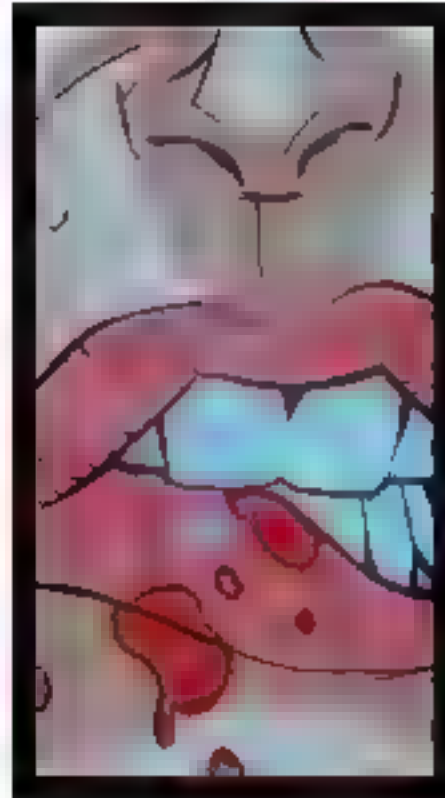
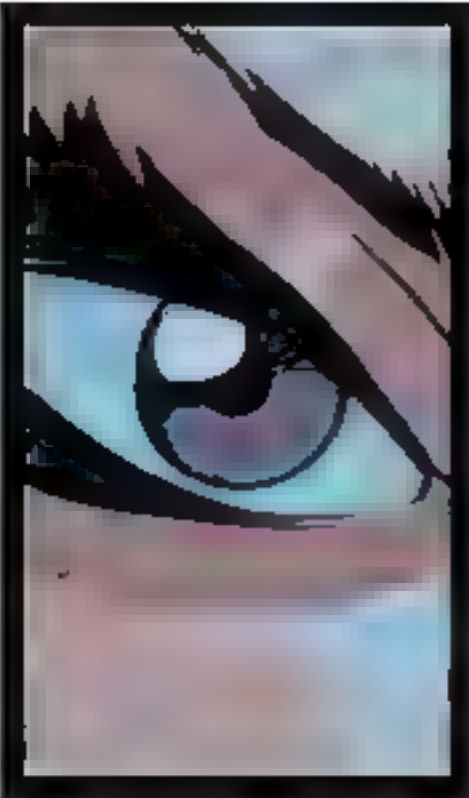
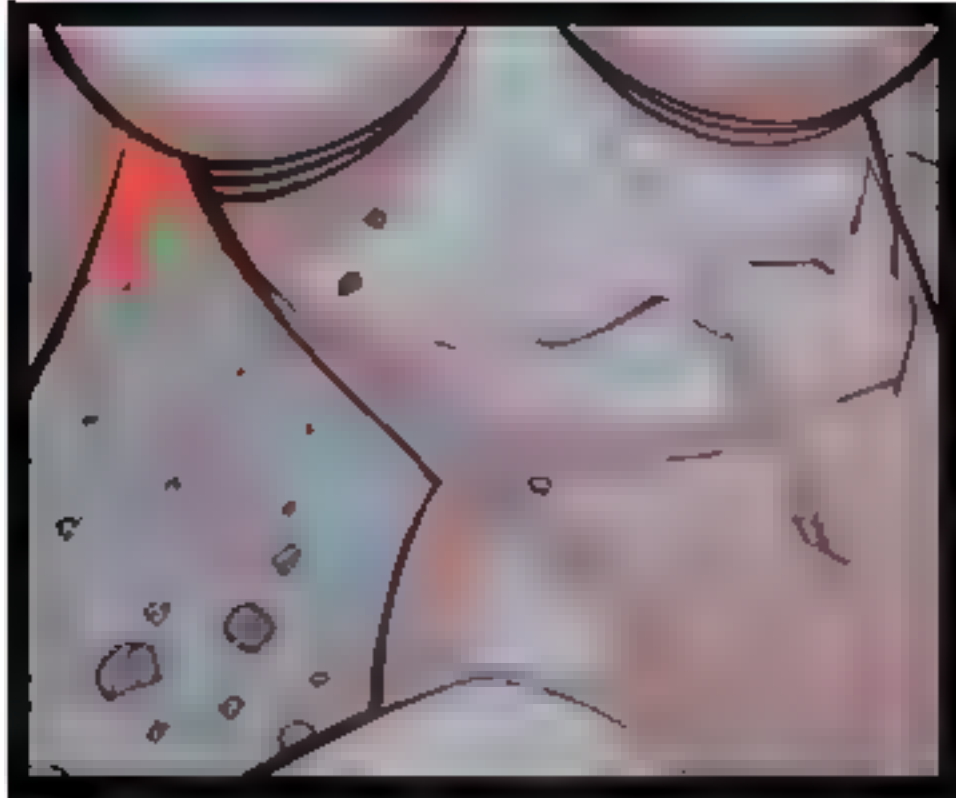
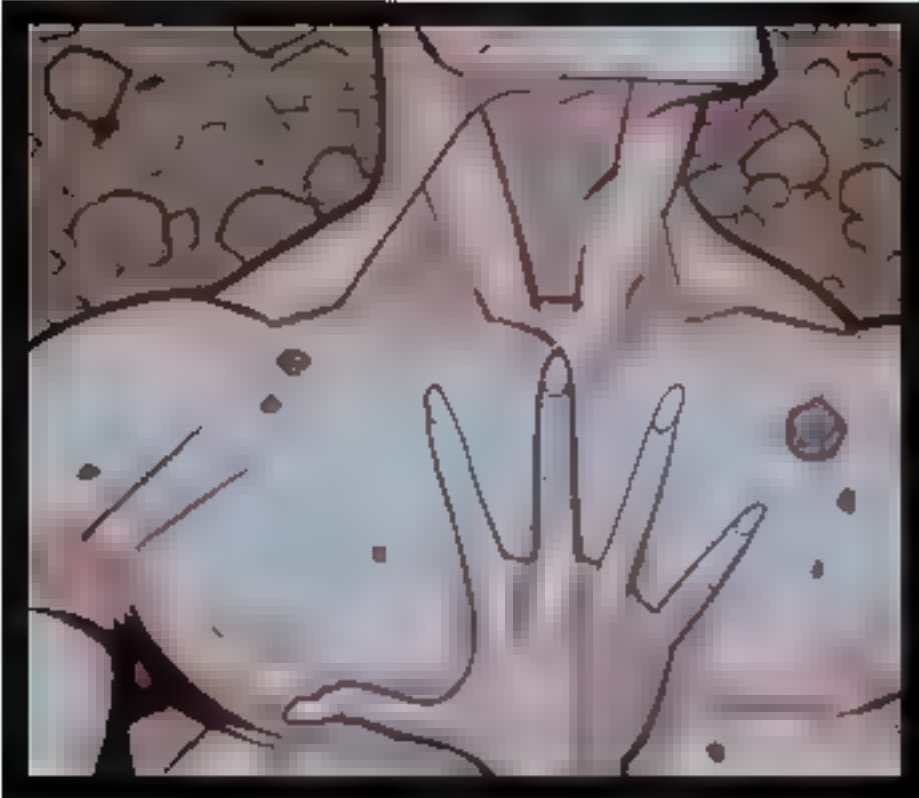
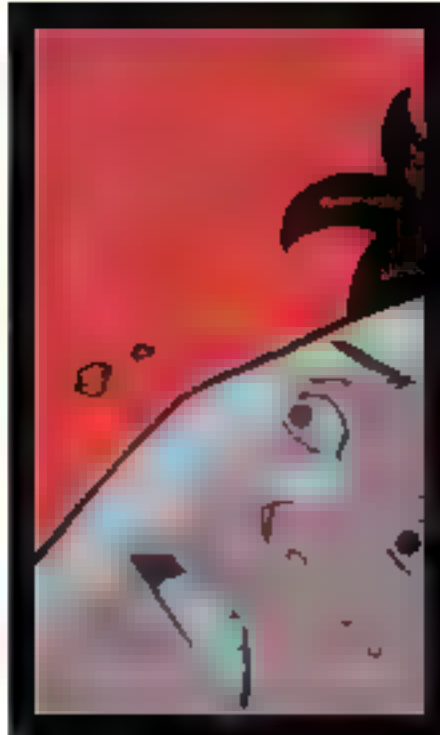
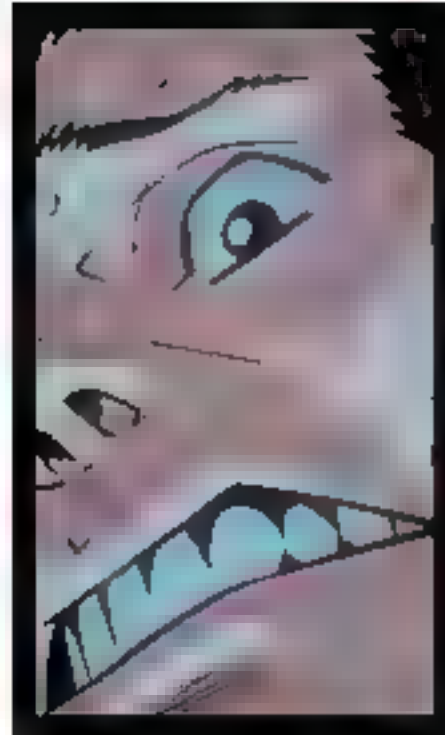
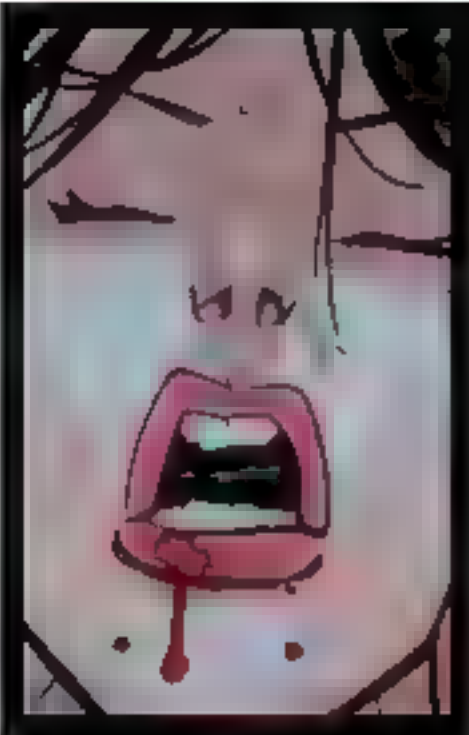
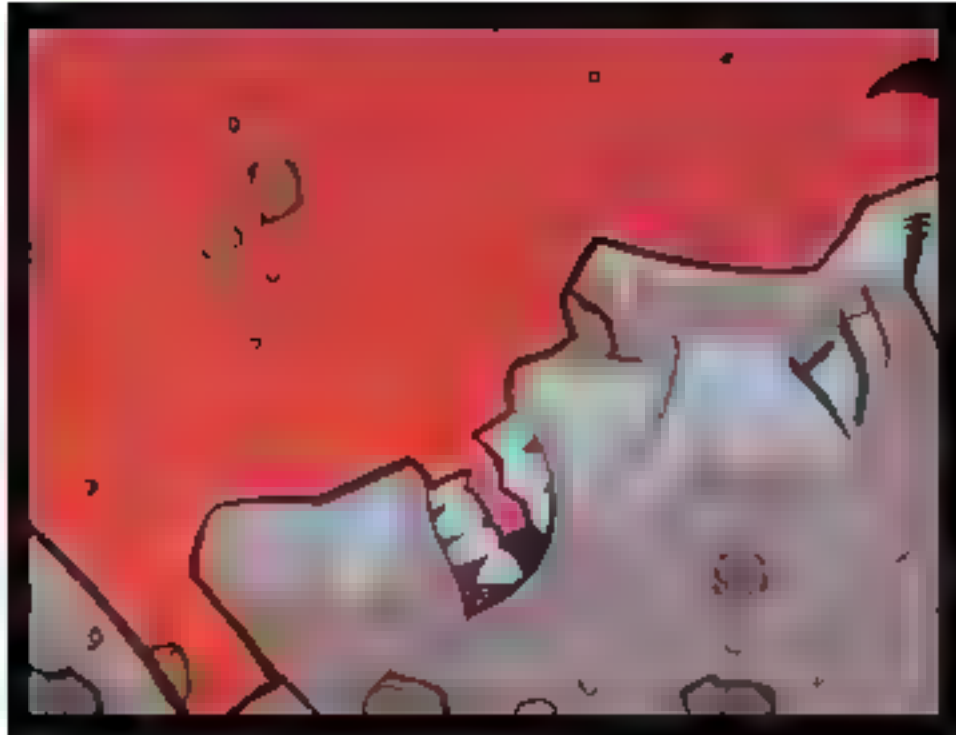
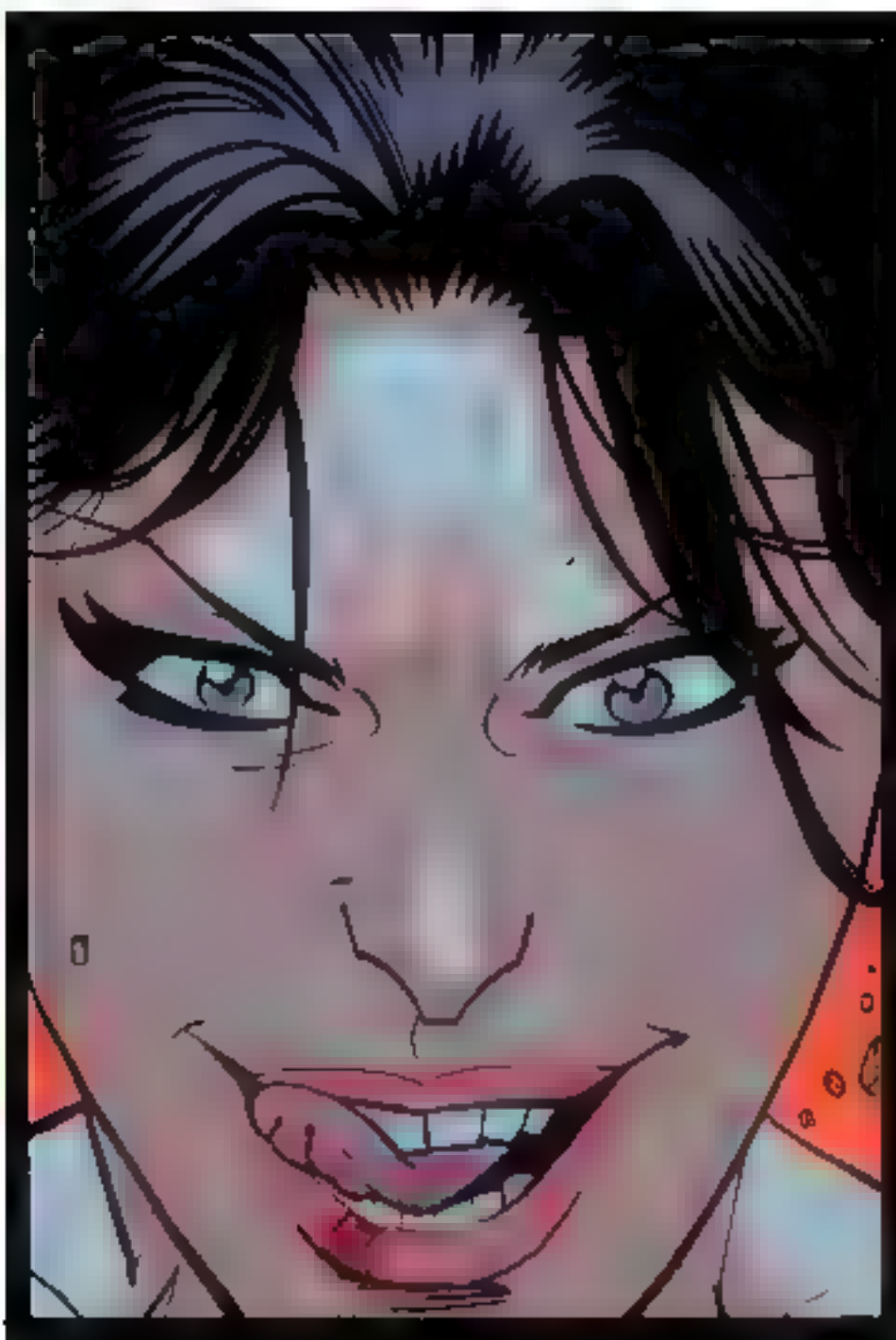
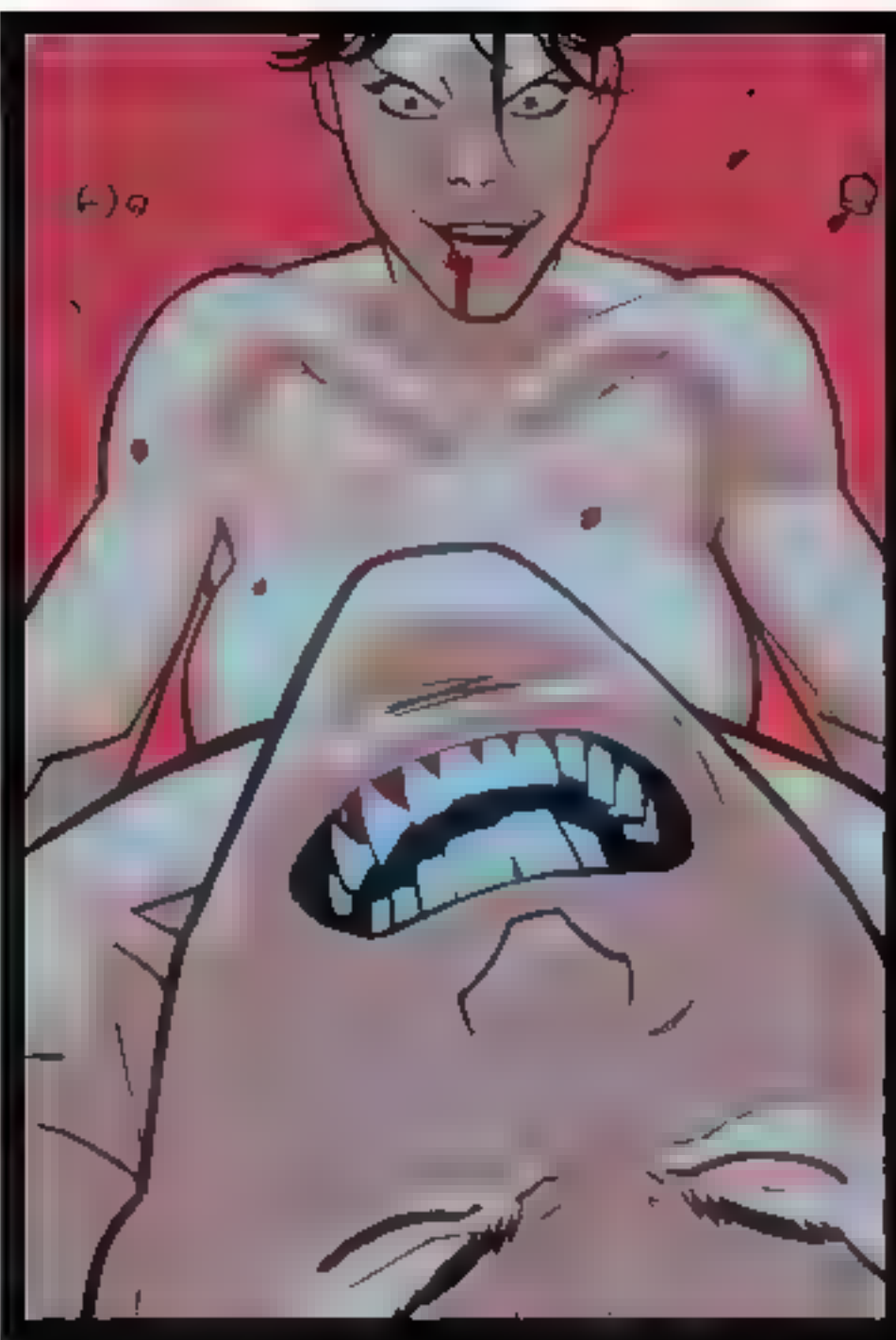
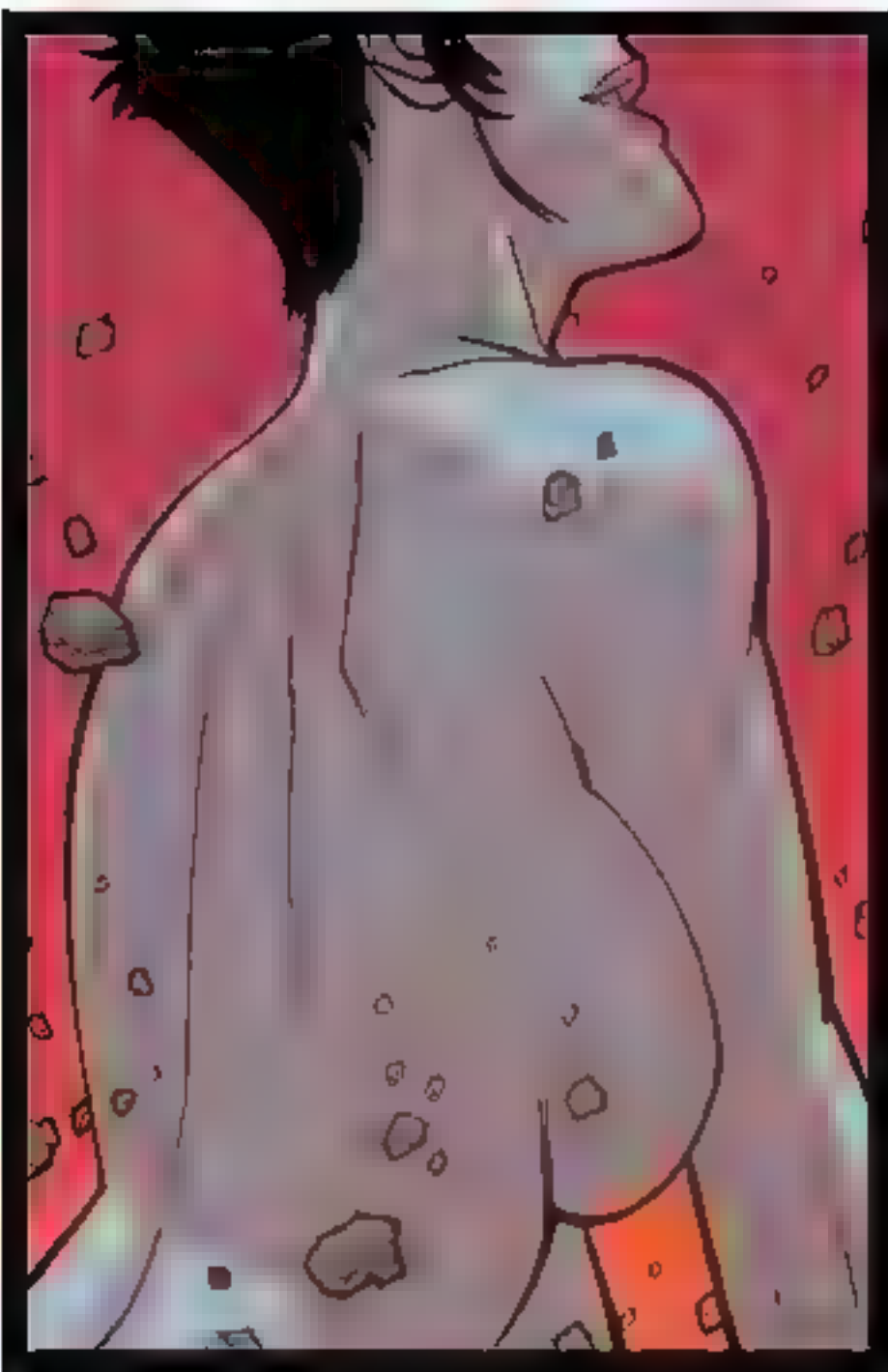
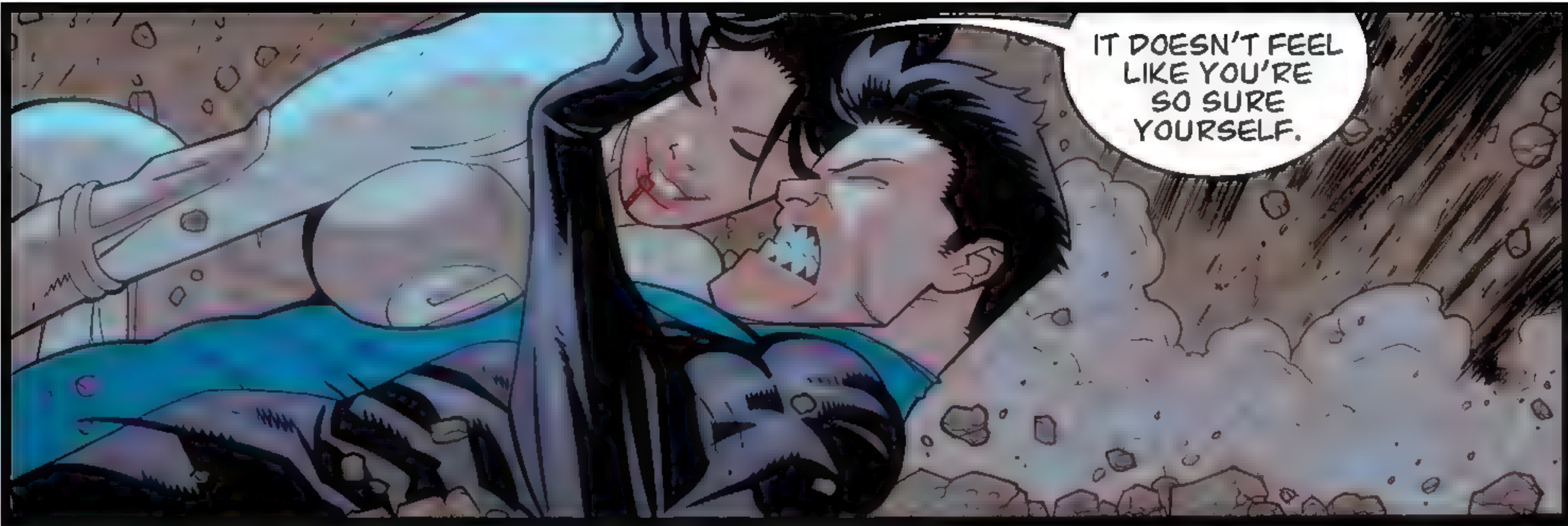
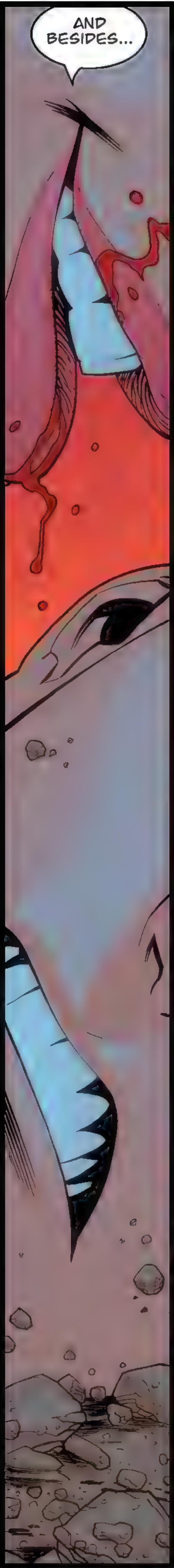


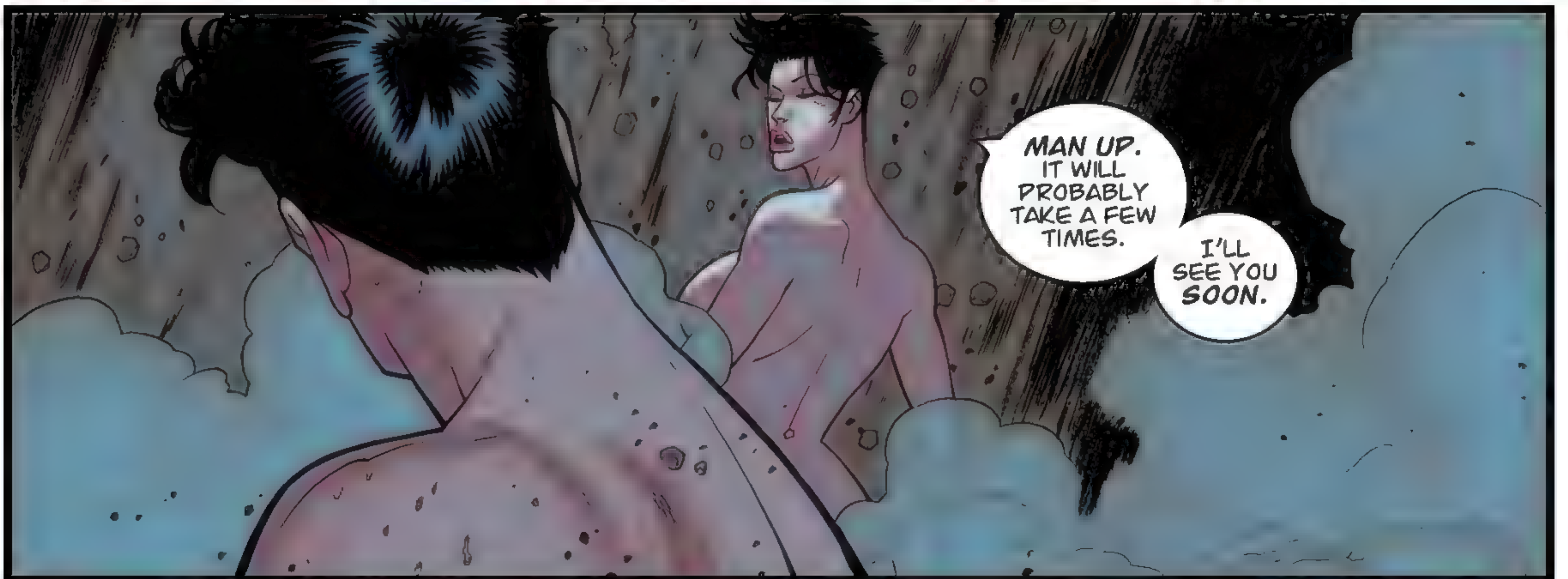










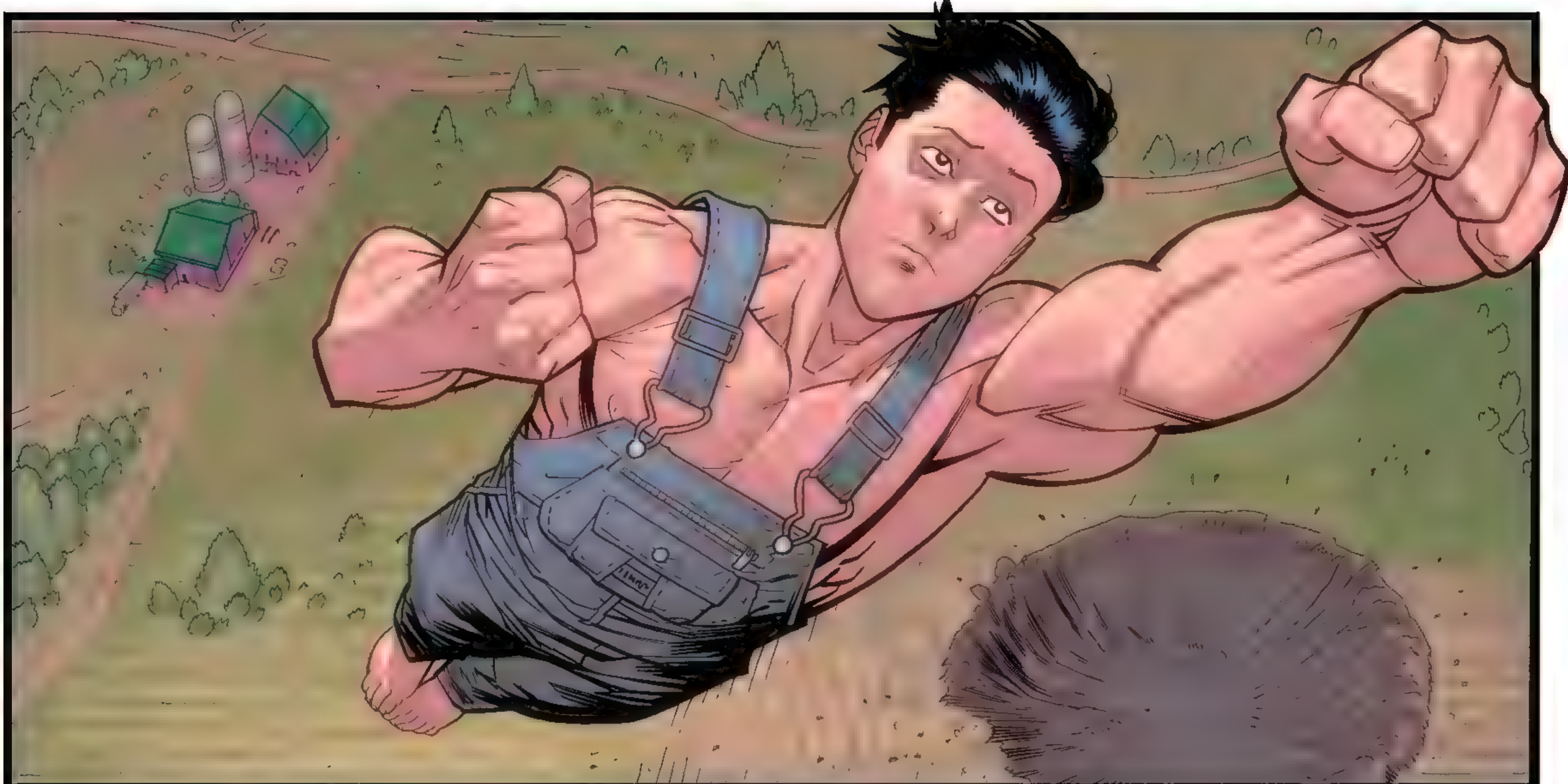
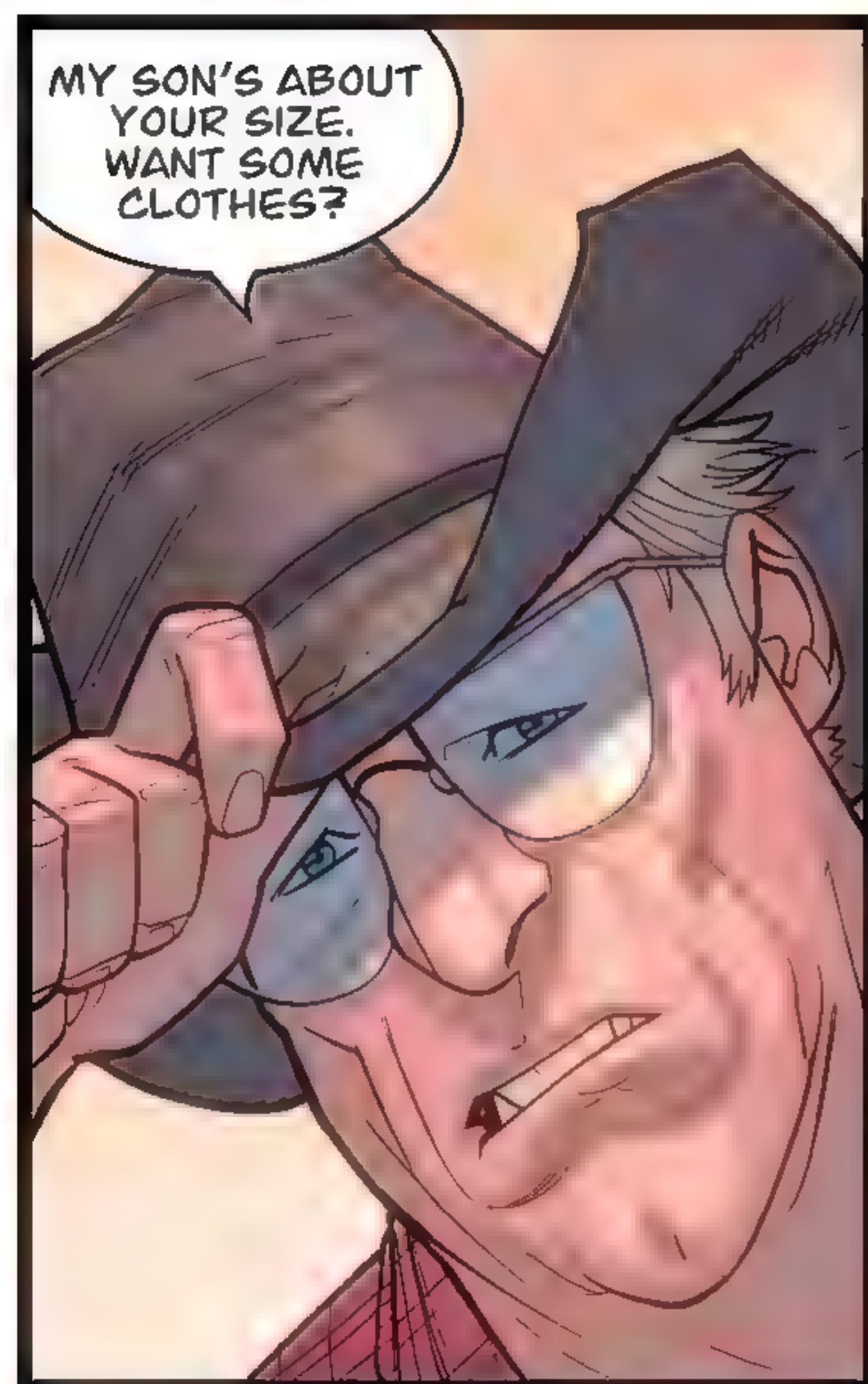
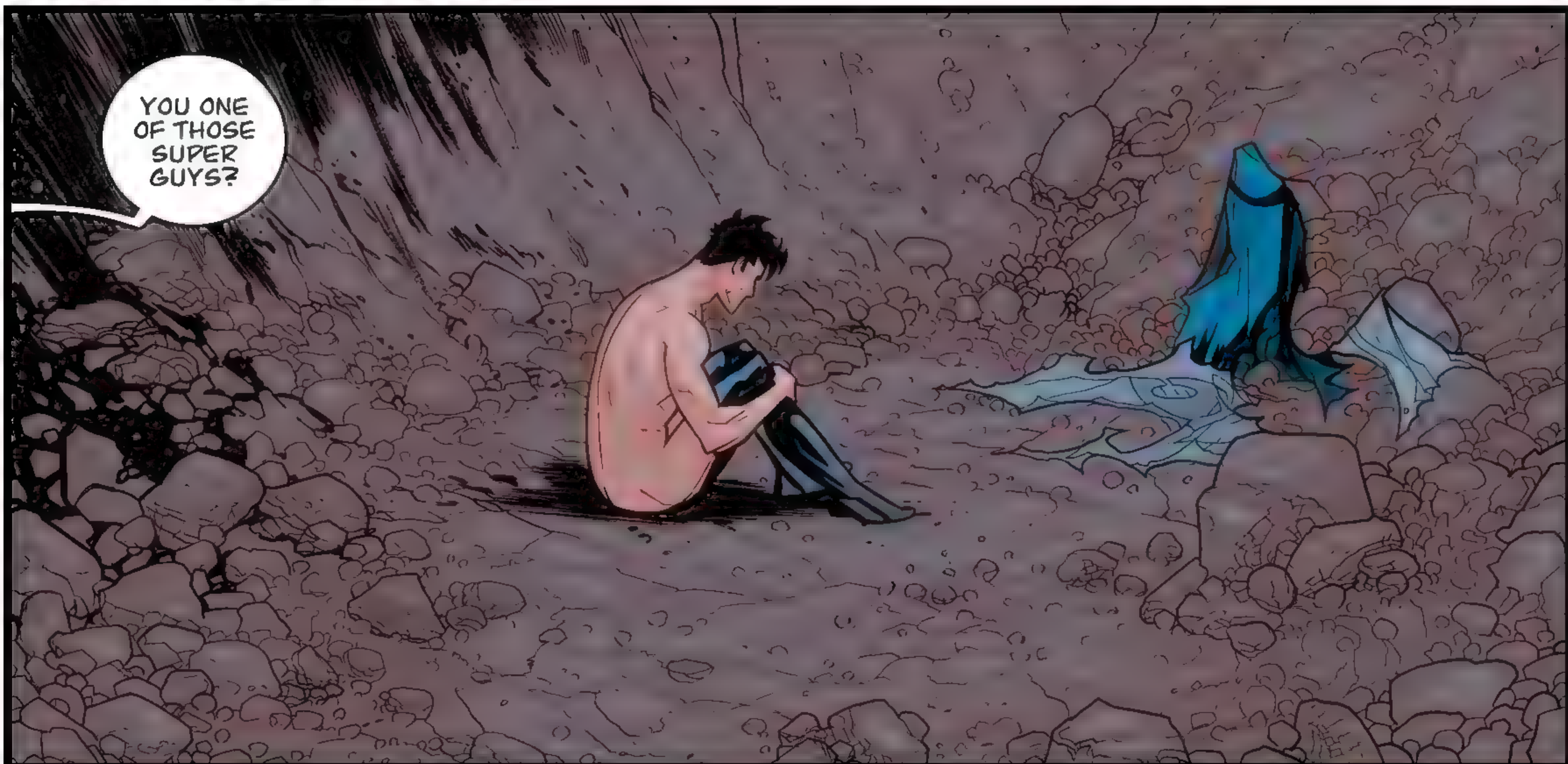


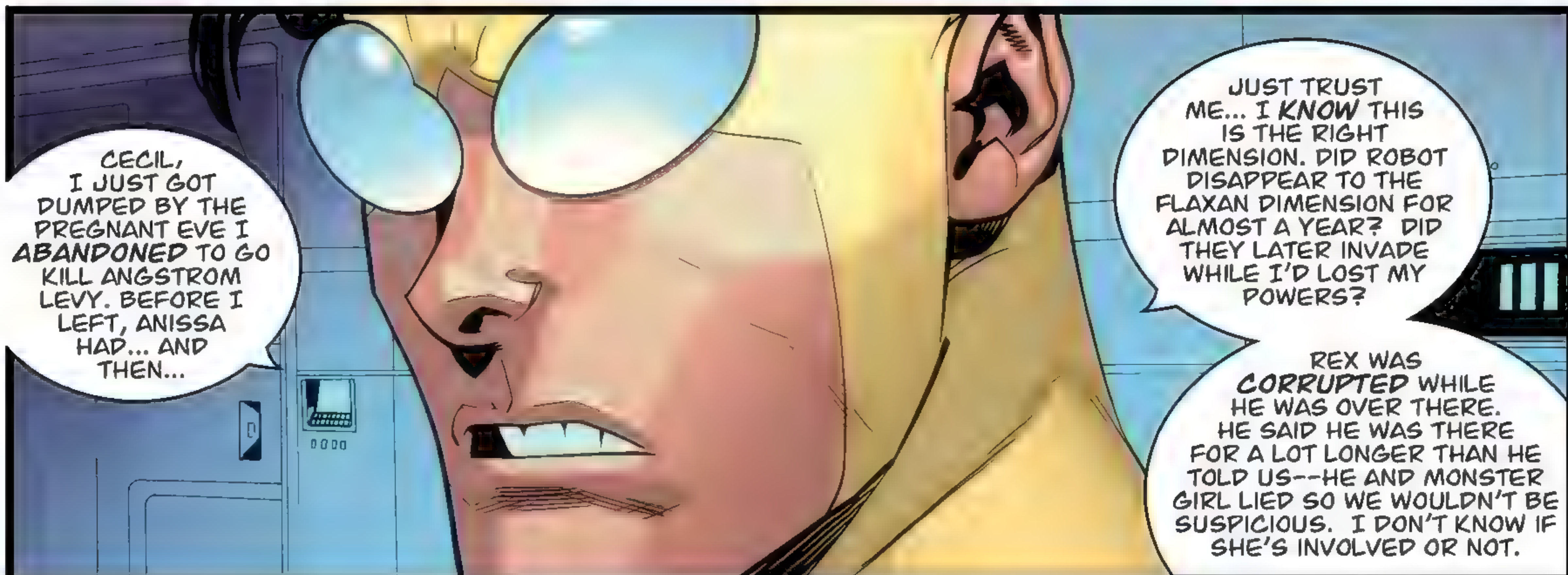
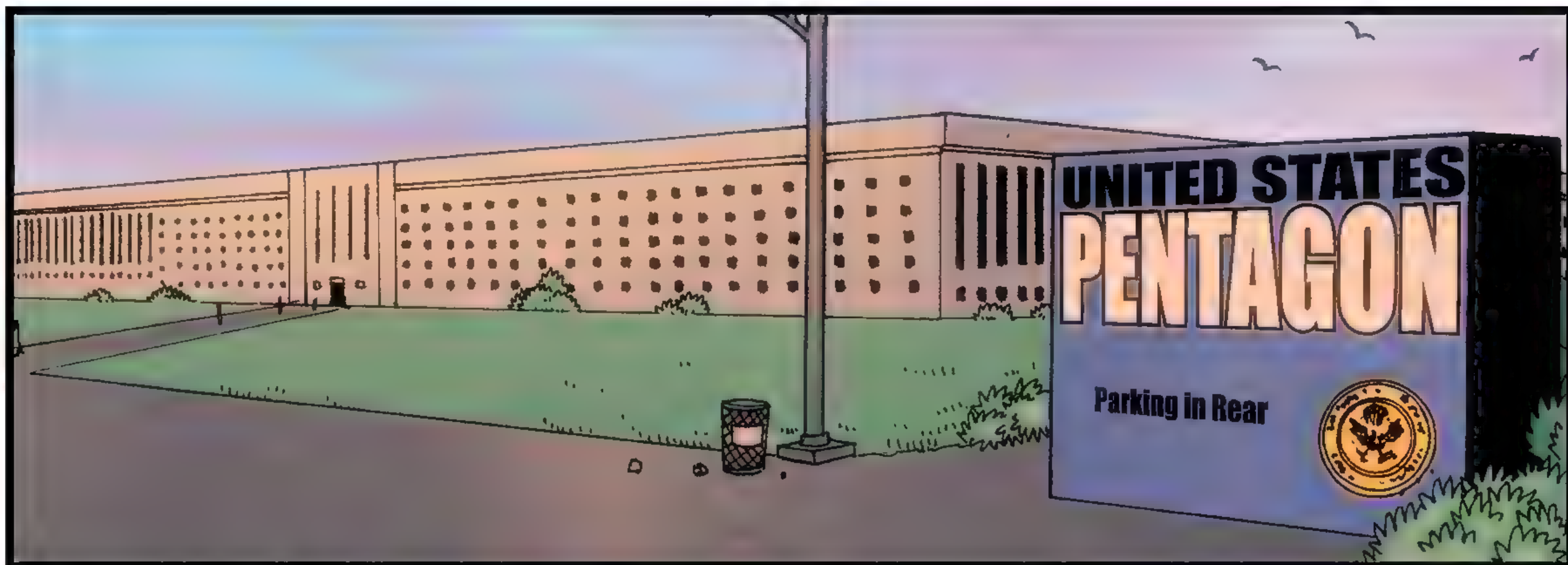




CHAPTER THREE

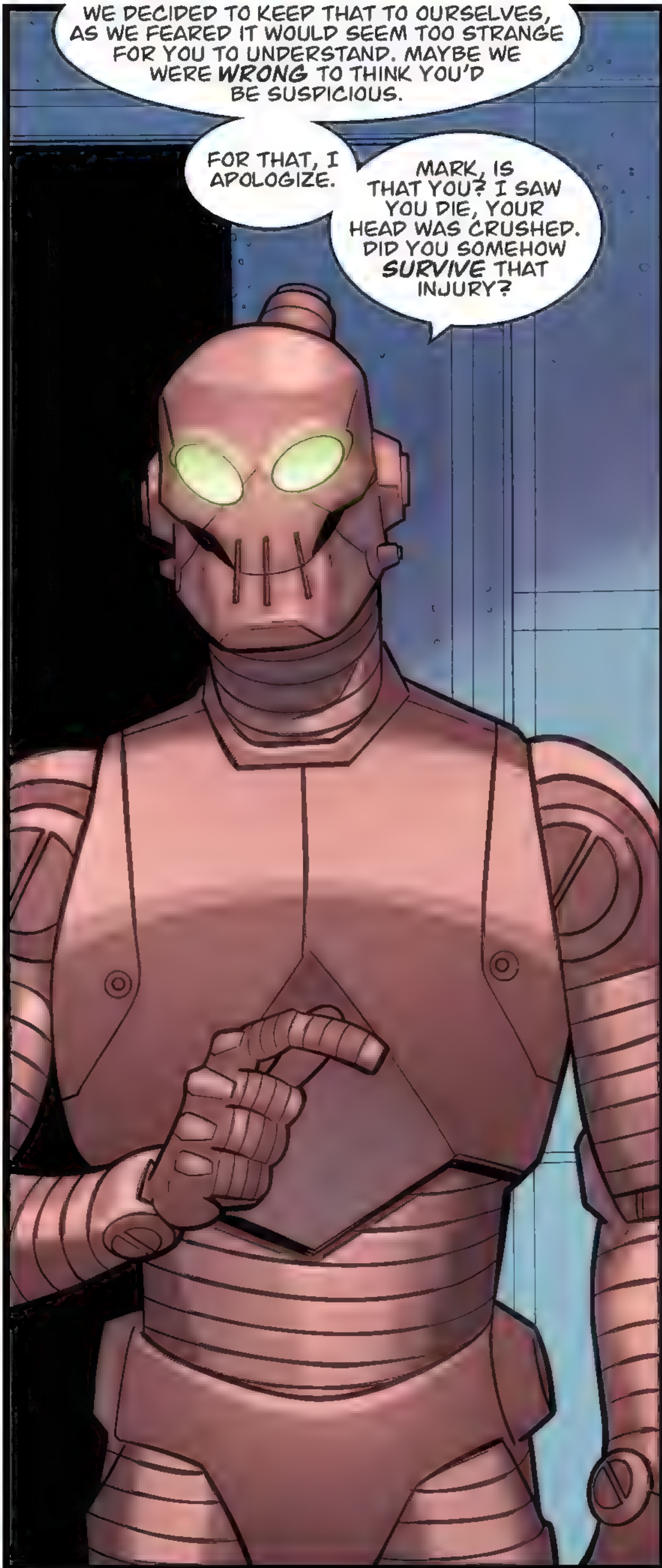








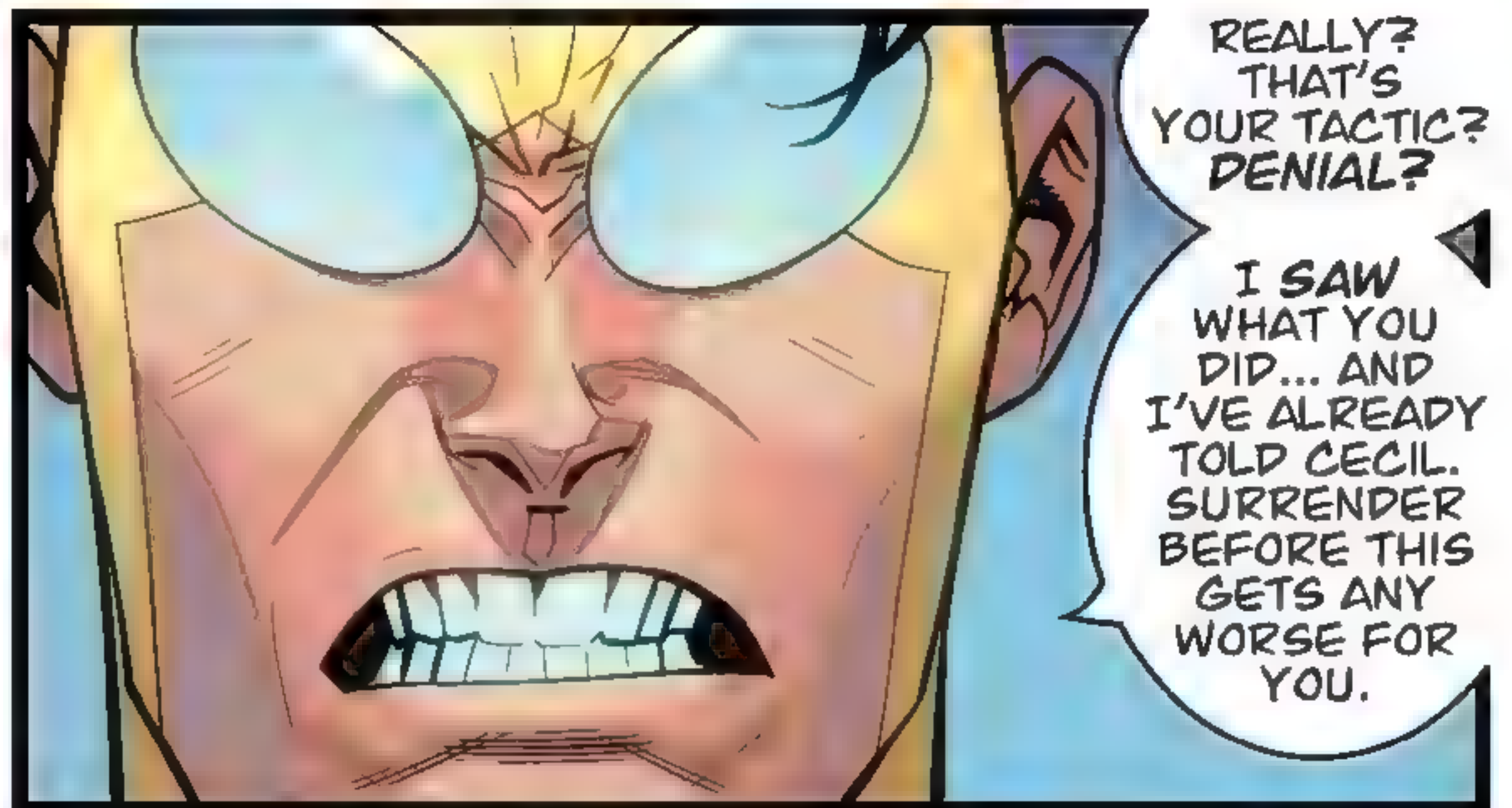
WE WERE IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION FOR NEARLY A THOUSAND YEARS.



WE DECIDED TO KEEP THAT TO OURSELVES, AS WE FEARED IT WOULD SEEM TOO STRANGE FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND. MAYBE WE WERE **WRONG** TO THINK YOU'D BE SUSPICIOUS.

FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.

MARK, IS THAT YOU? I SAW YOU DIE, YOUR HEAD WAS CRUSHED. DID YOU SOMEHOW **SURVIVE** THAT INJURY?



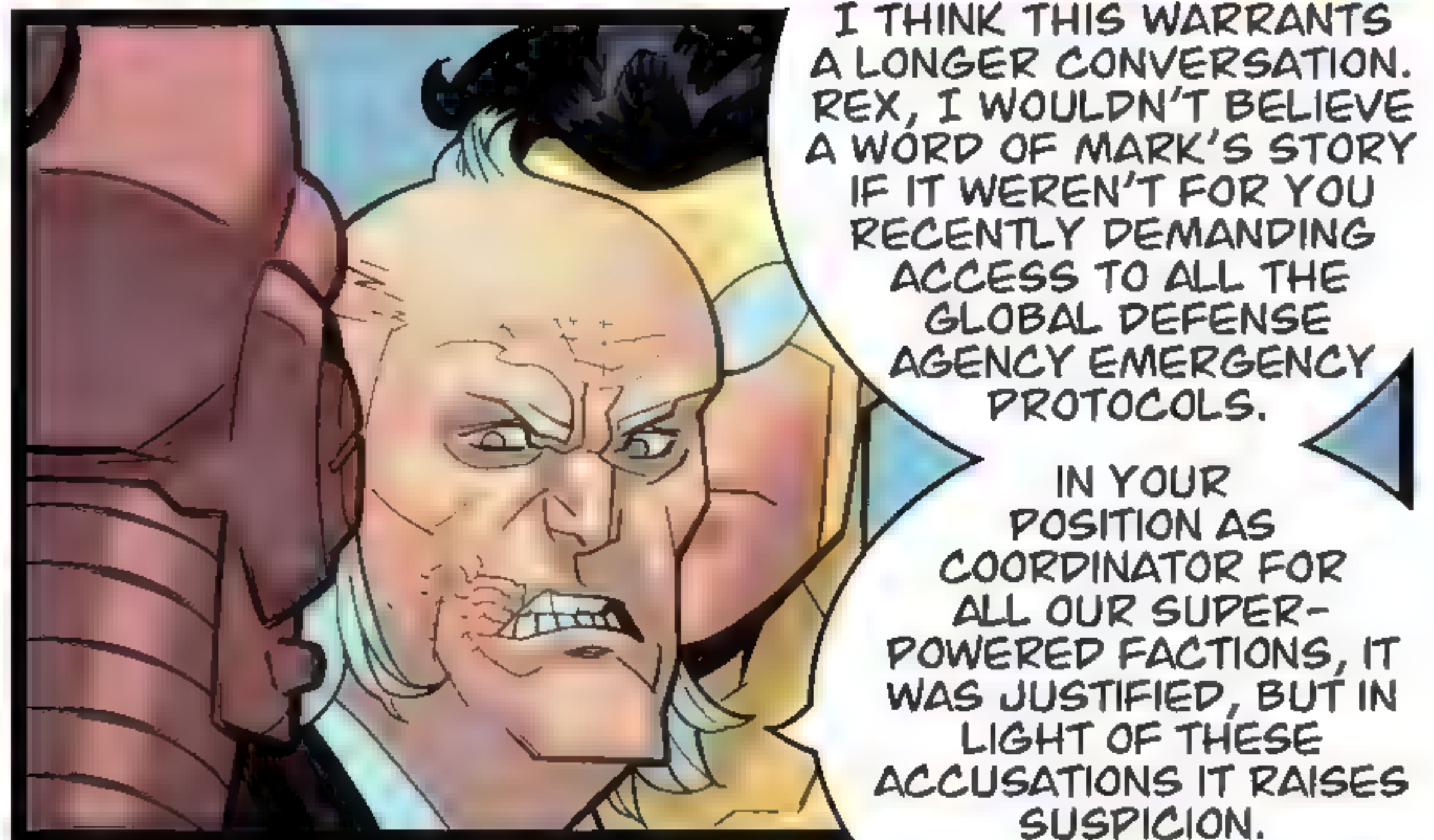
REALLY? THAT'S YOUR TACTIC? **DENIAL?**

I SAW WHAT YOU DID... AND I'VE ALREADY TOLD CECIL. SURRENDER BEFORE THIS GETS ANY WORSE FOR YOU.



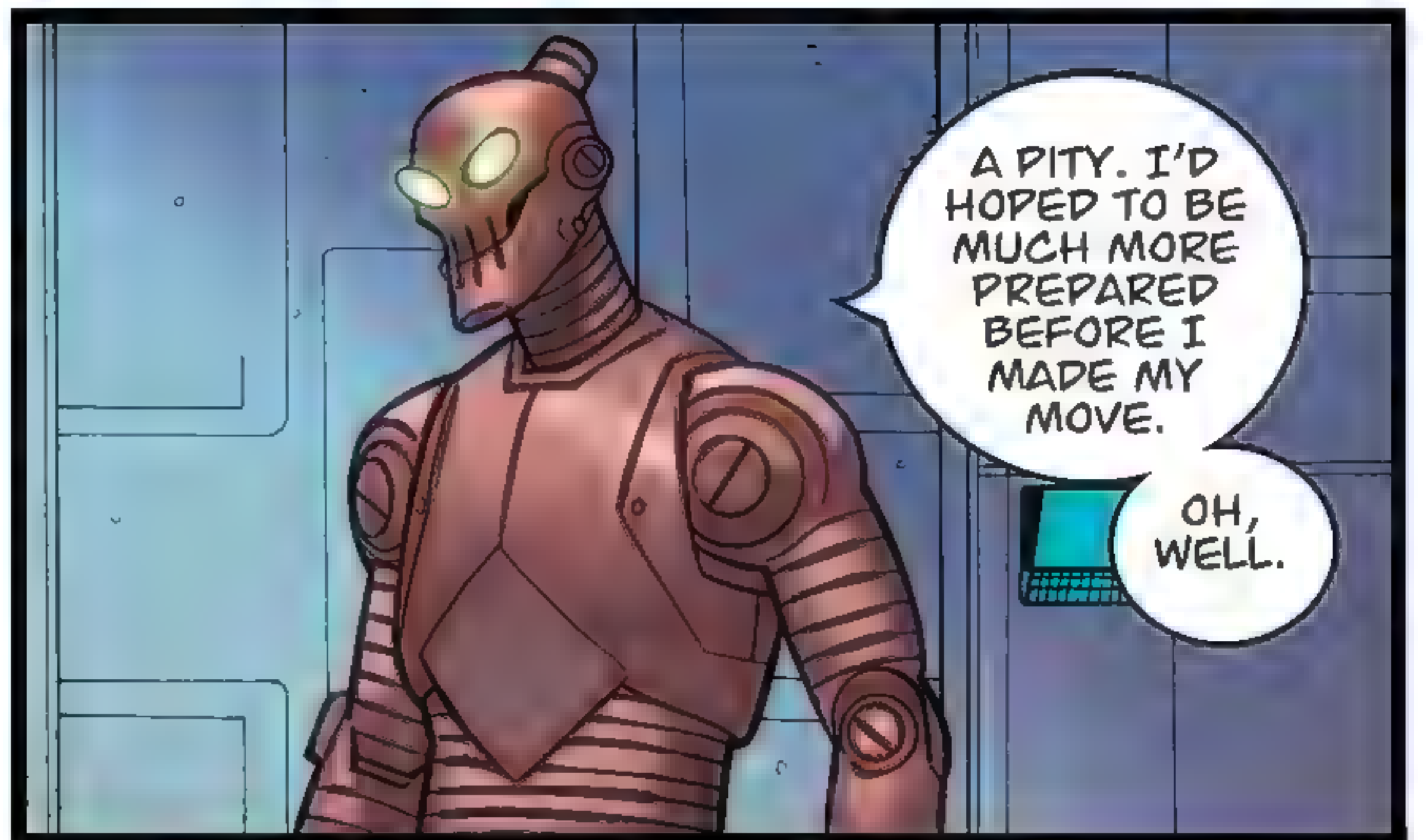
SURRENDER FOR WHAT?

YOU PLAN ON TAKING OVER THE PLANET. YOU TOLD ME THAT.



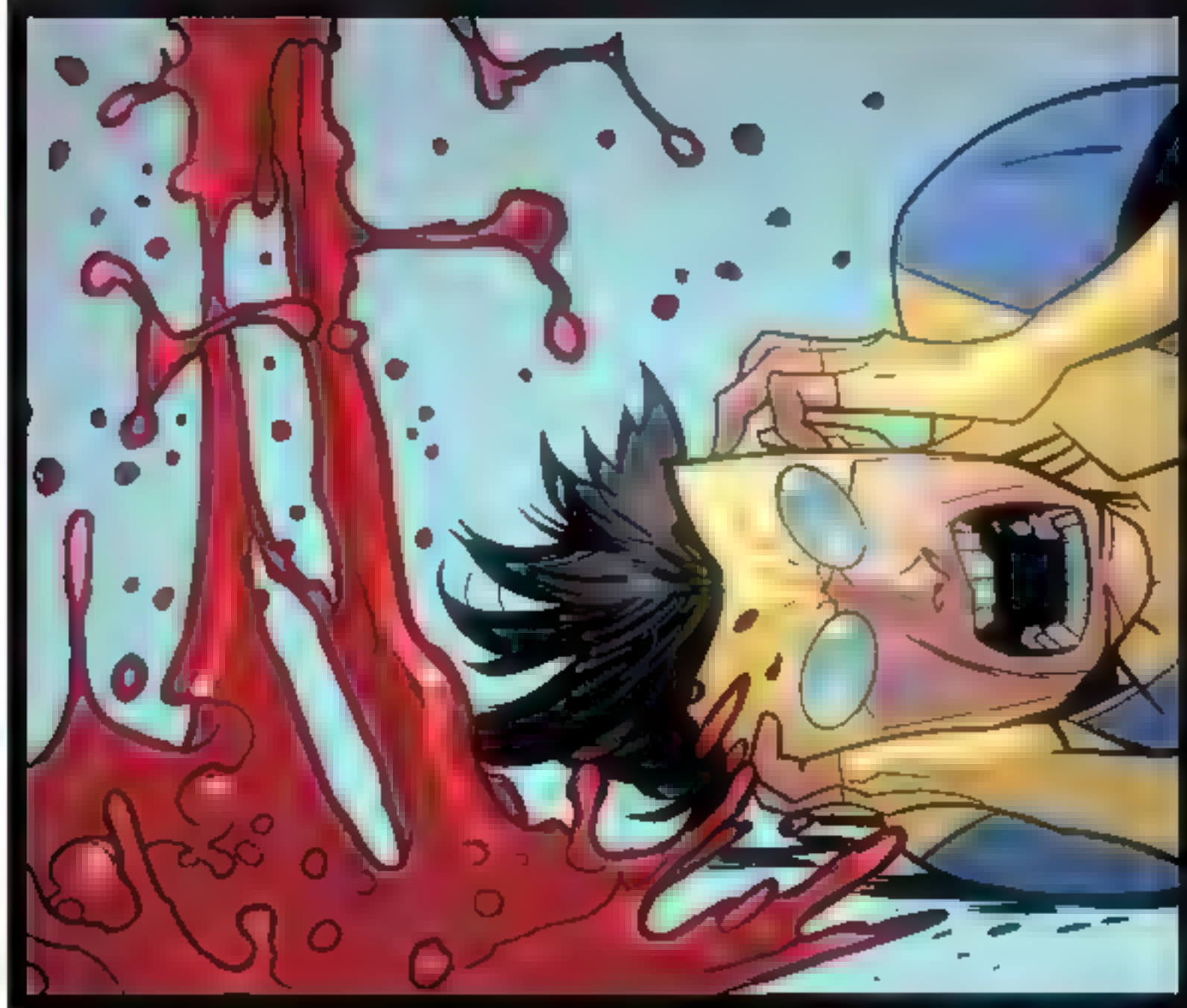
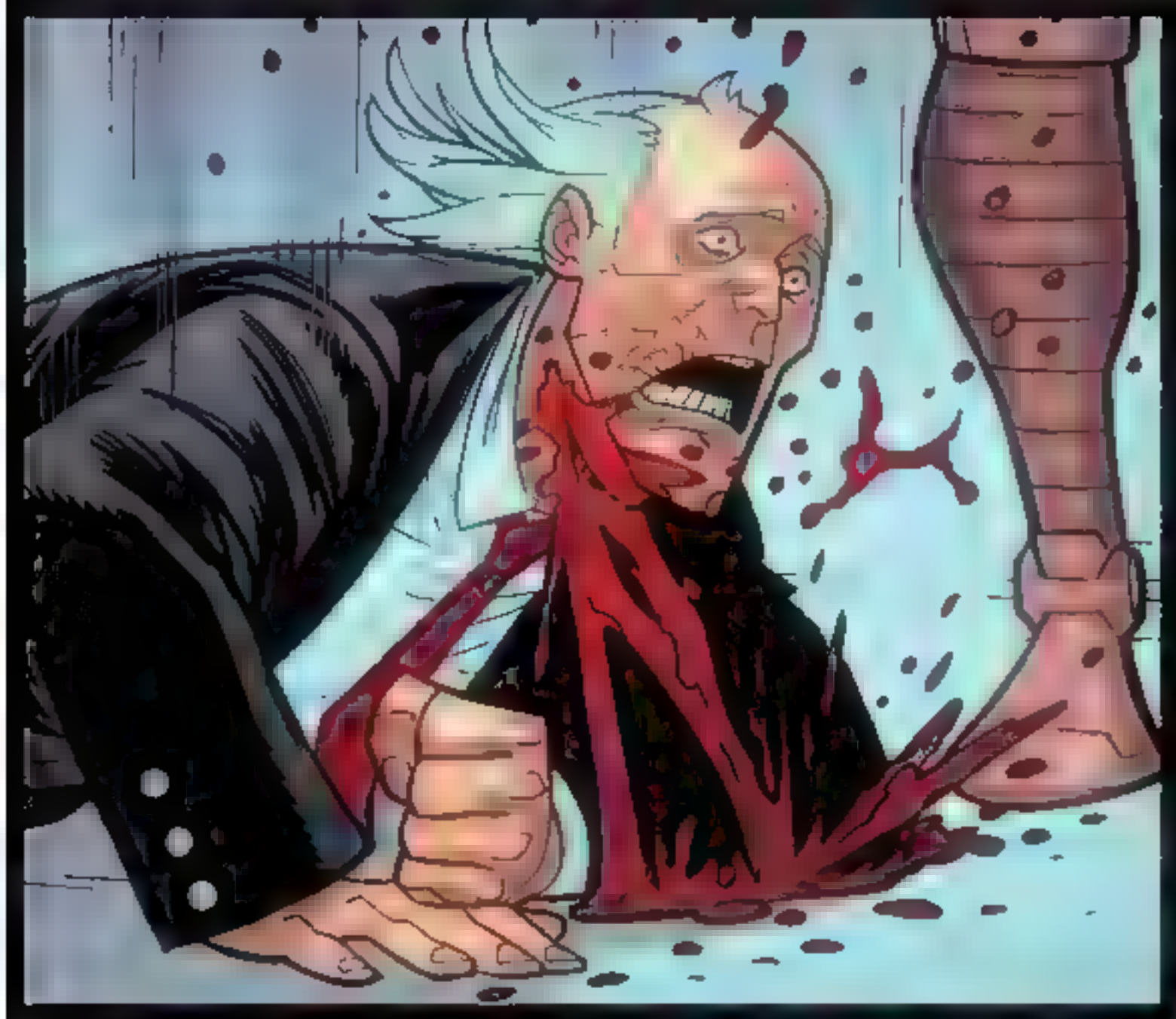
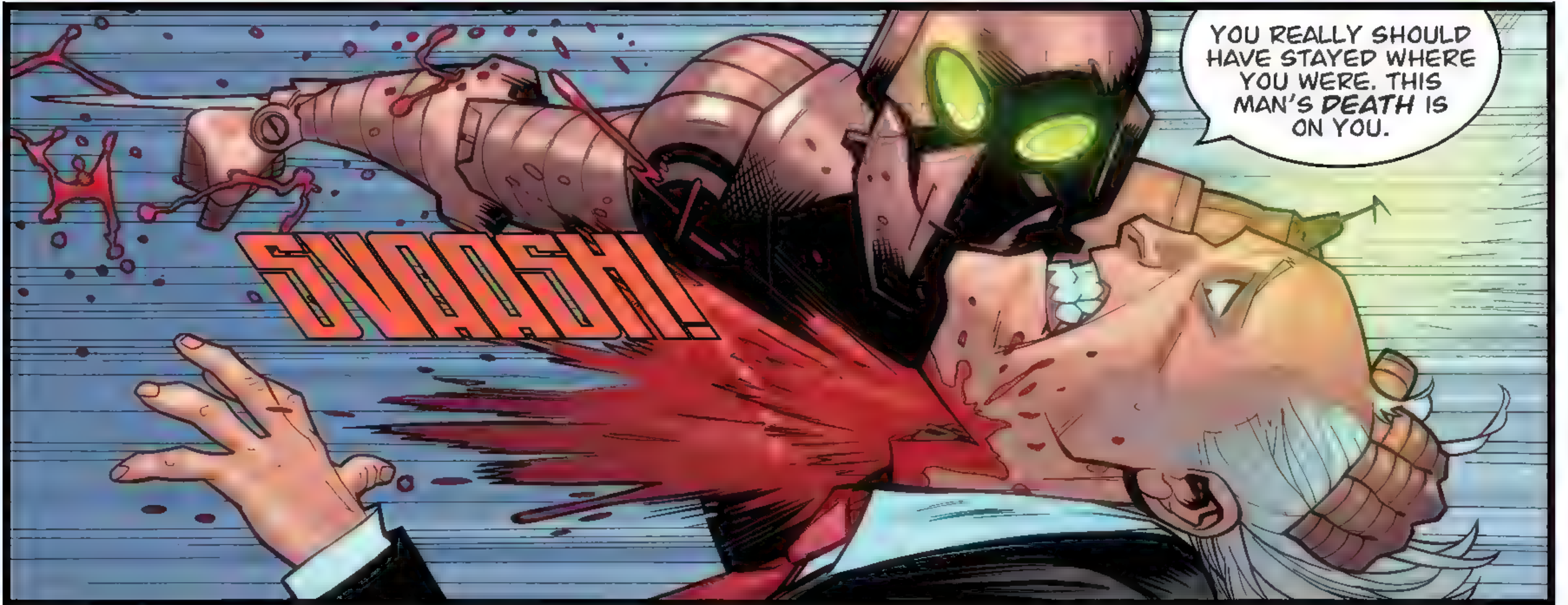
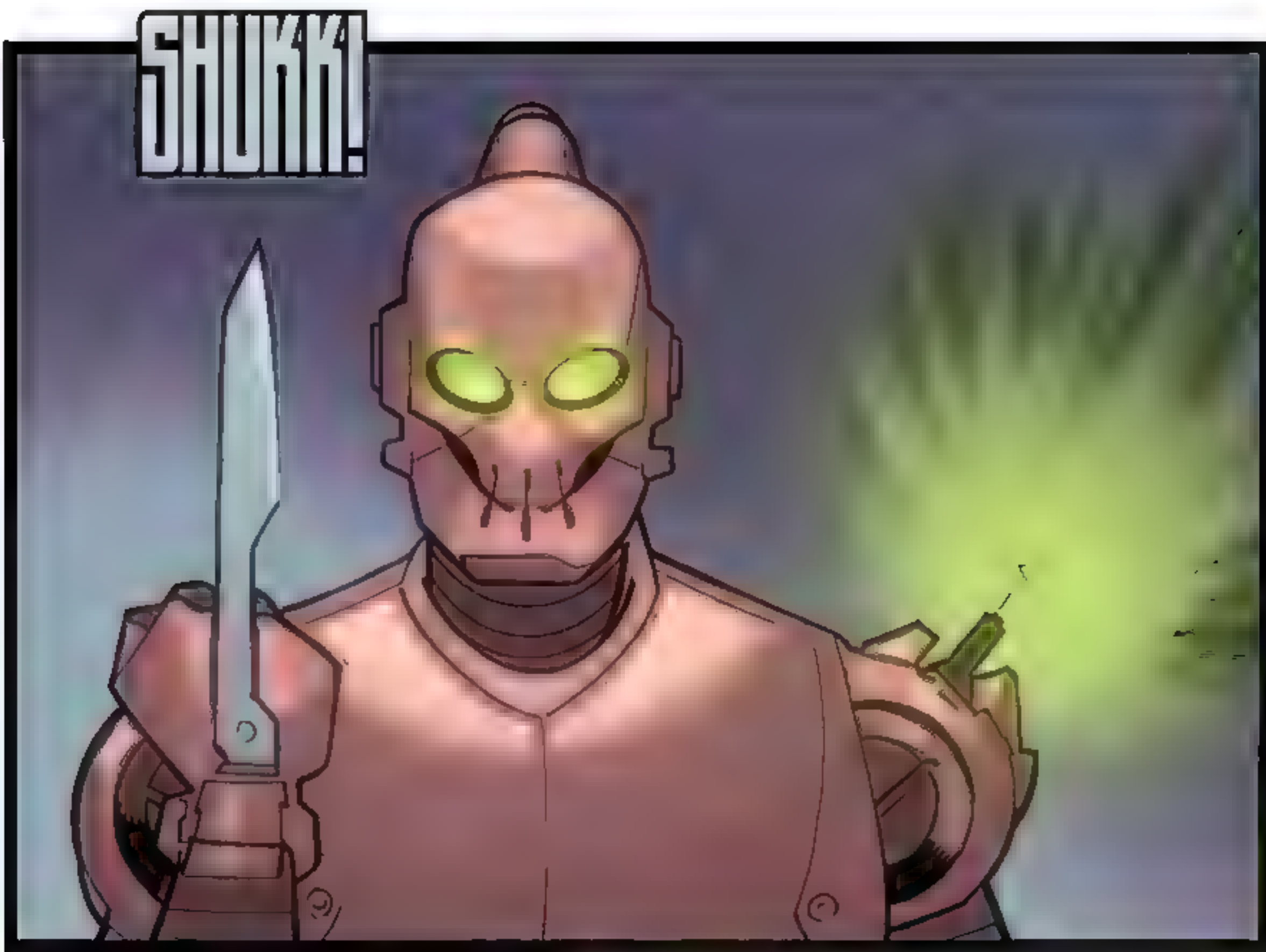
I THINK THIS WARRANTS A LONGER CONVERSATION. REX, I WOULDN'T BELIEVE A WORD OF MARK'S STORY IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU RECENTLY DEMANDING ACCESS TO ALL THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS.

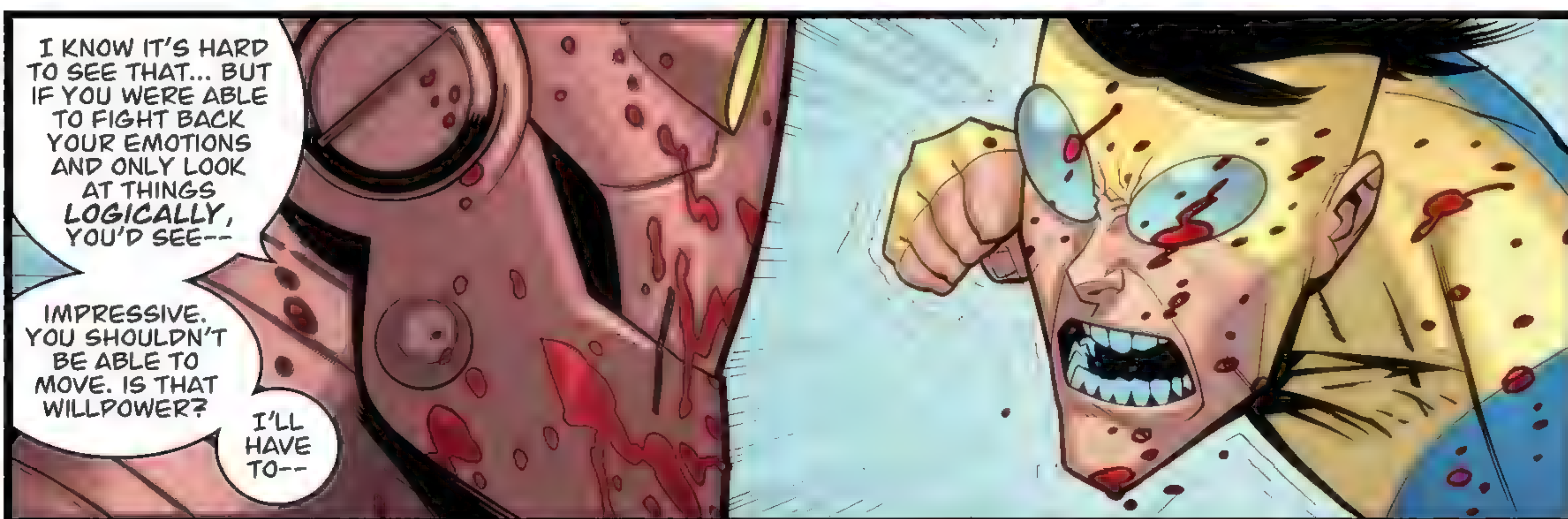
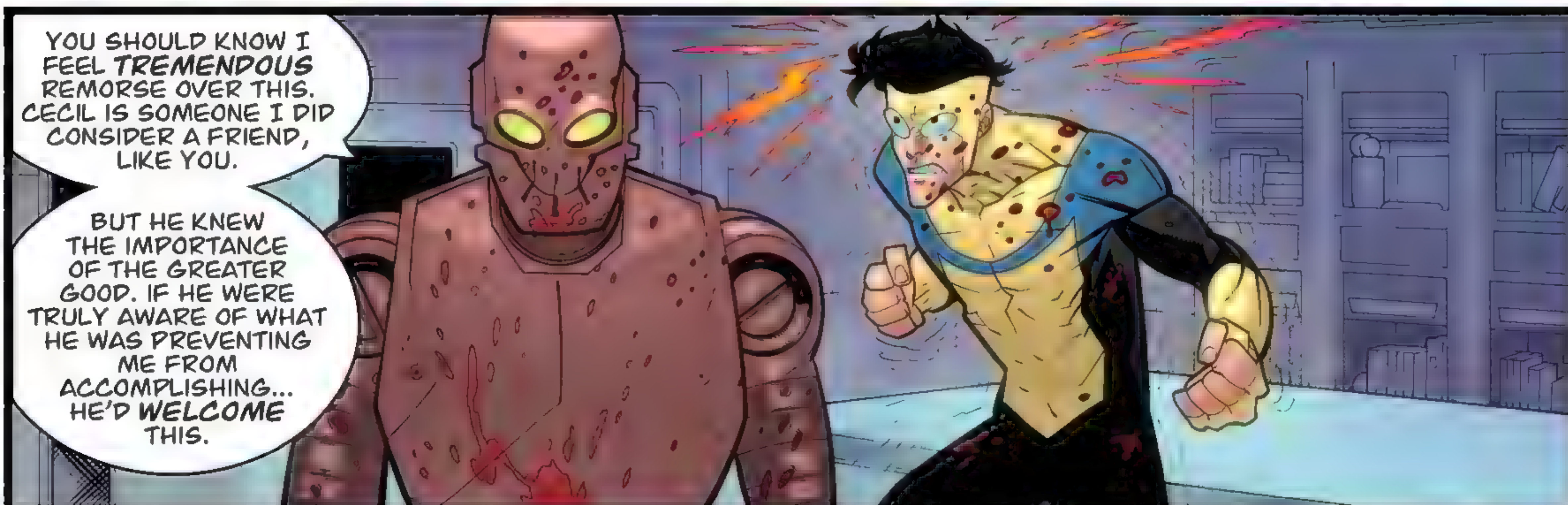
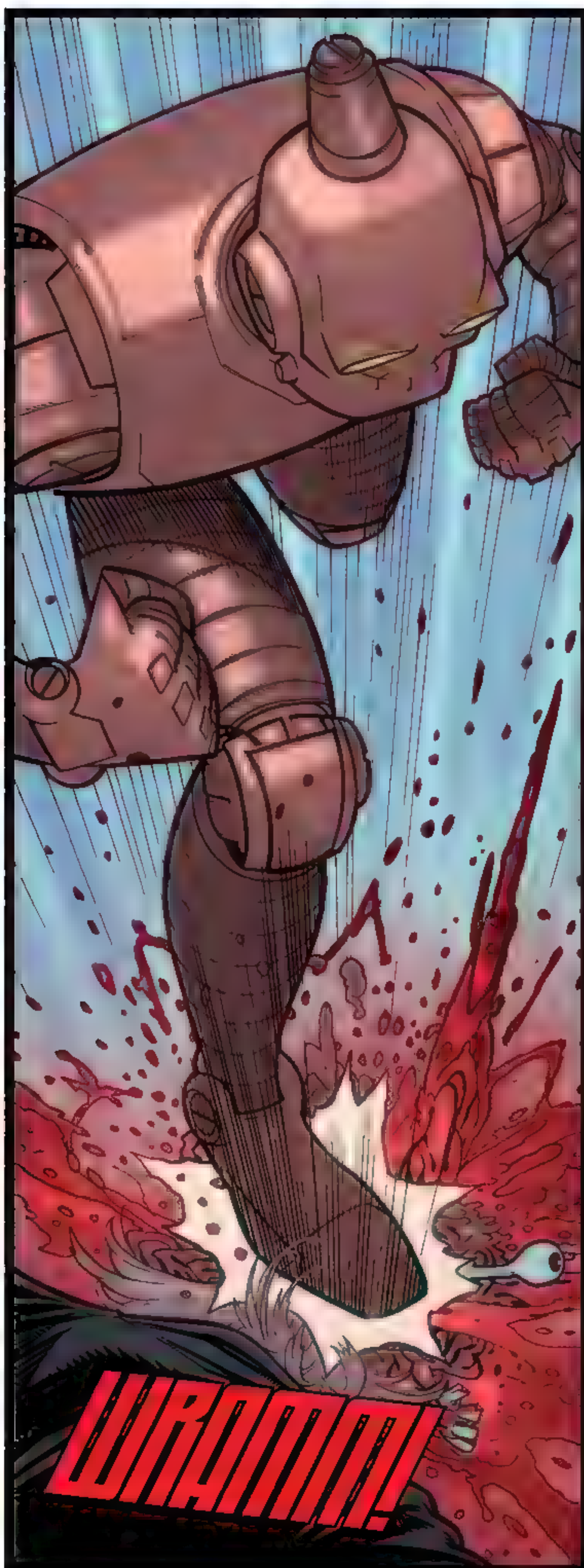
IN YOUR POSITION AS COORDINATOR FOR ALL OUR SUPER-POWERED FACTIONS, IT WAS JUSTIFIED, BUT IN LIGHT OF THESE ACCUSATIONS IT RAISES SUSPICION.

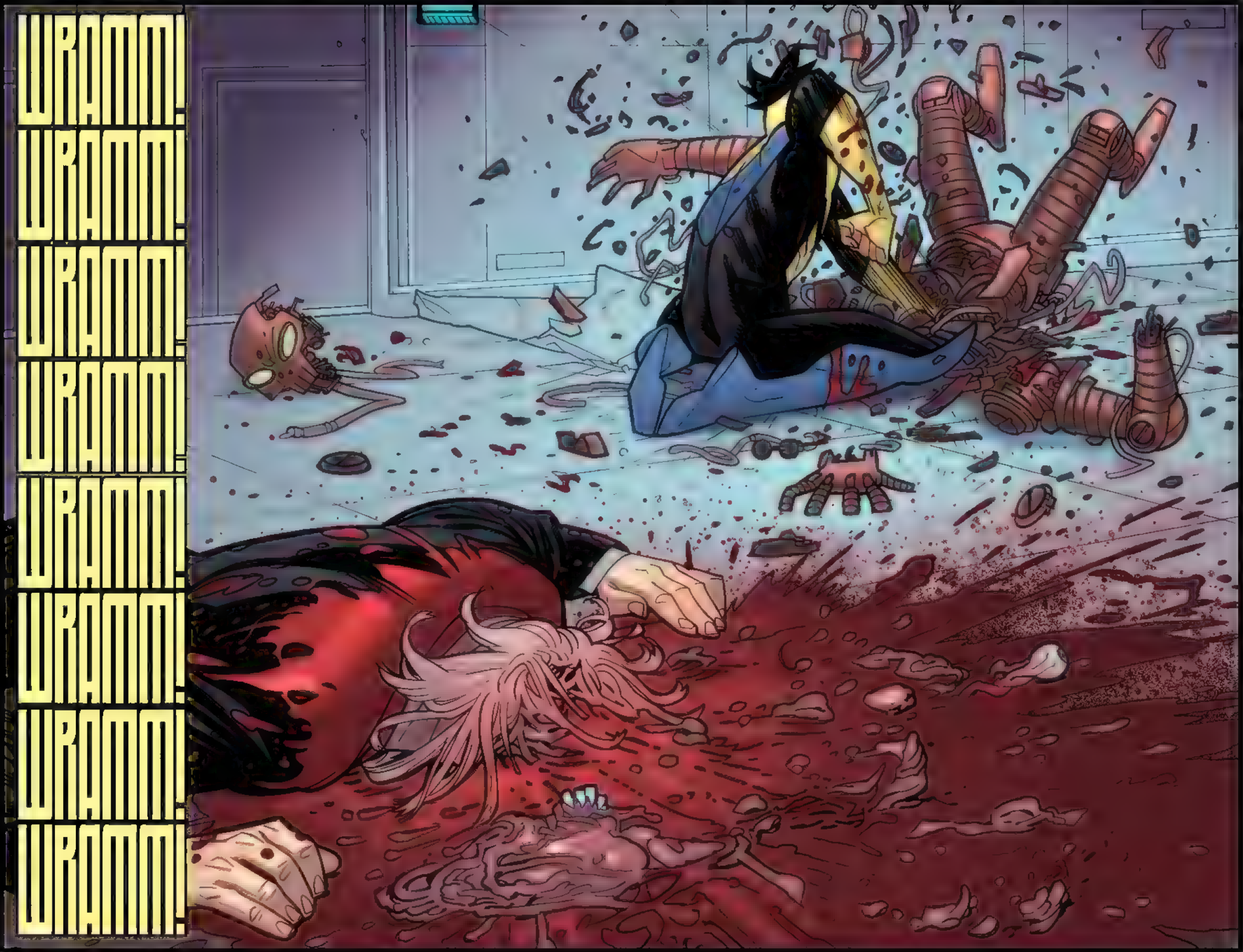
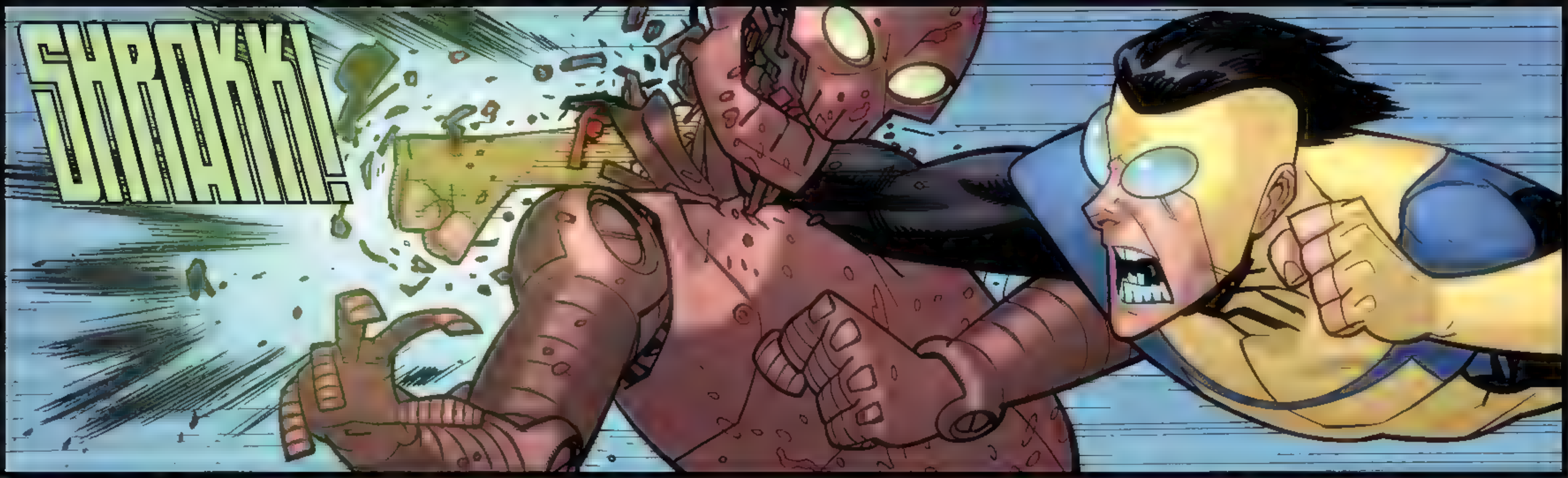


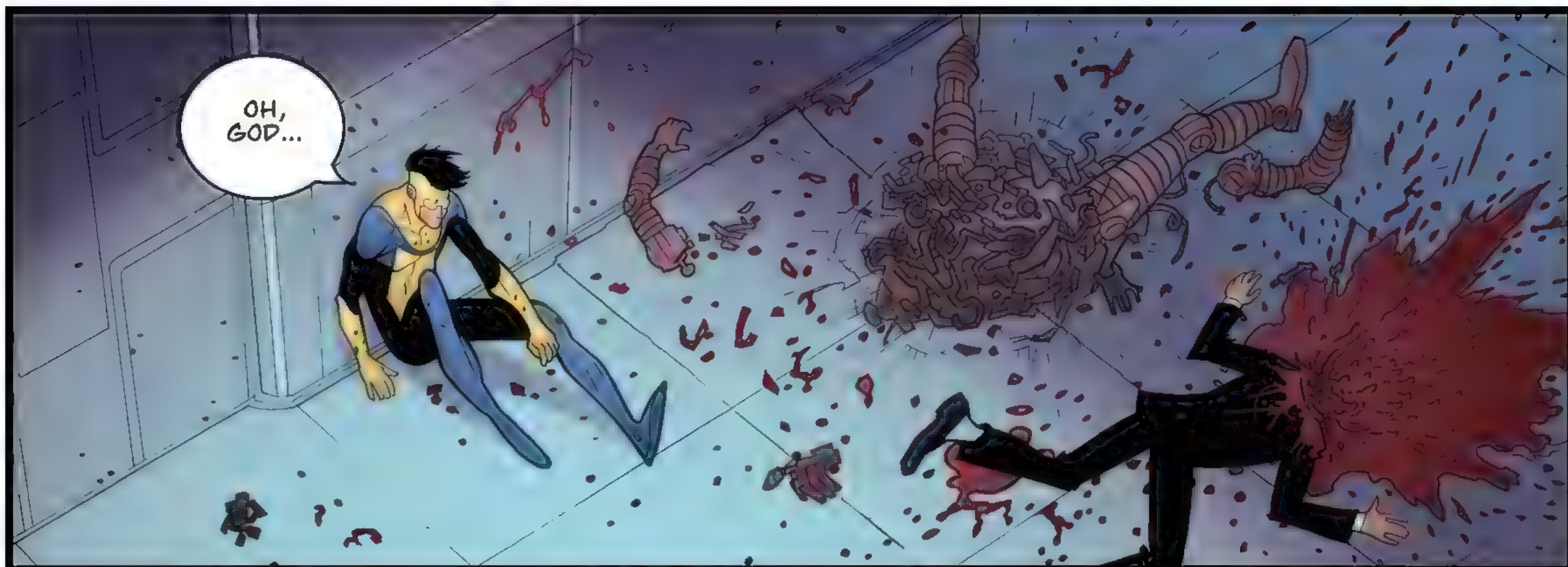
A PITY. I'D HOPED TO BE MUCH MORE PREPARED BEFORE I MADE MY MOVE.

OH, WELL.

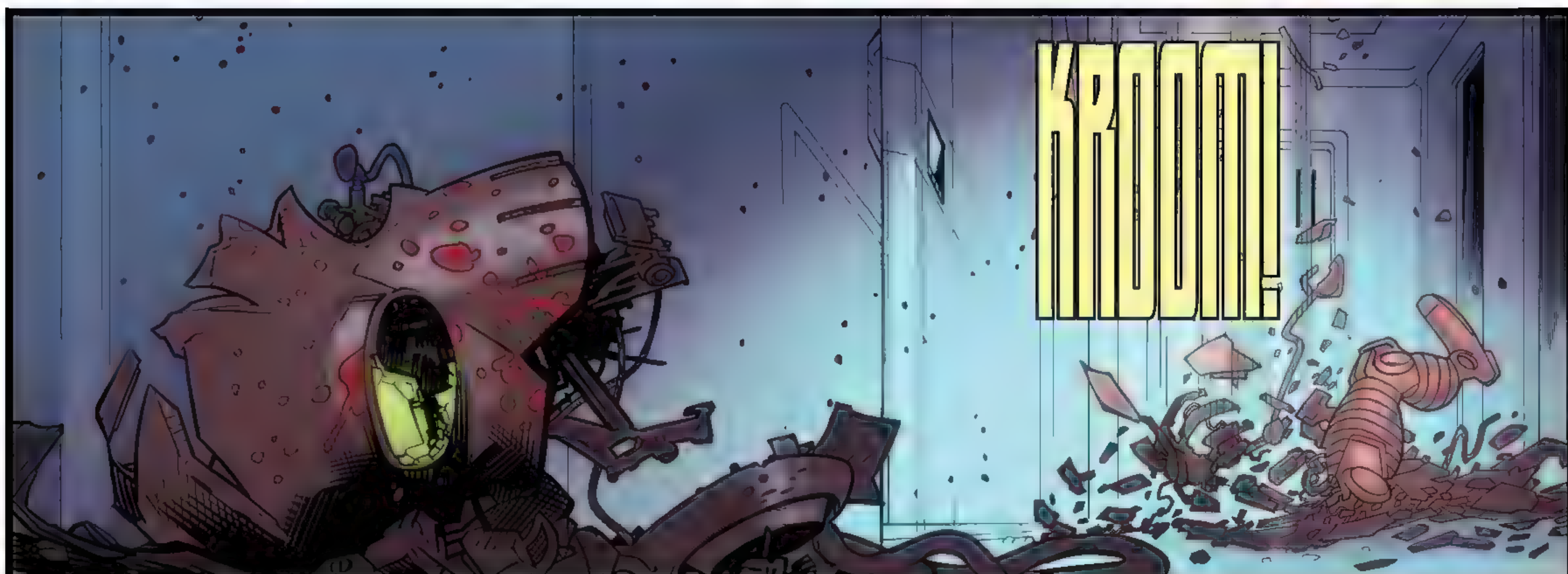
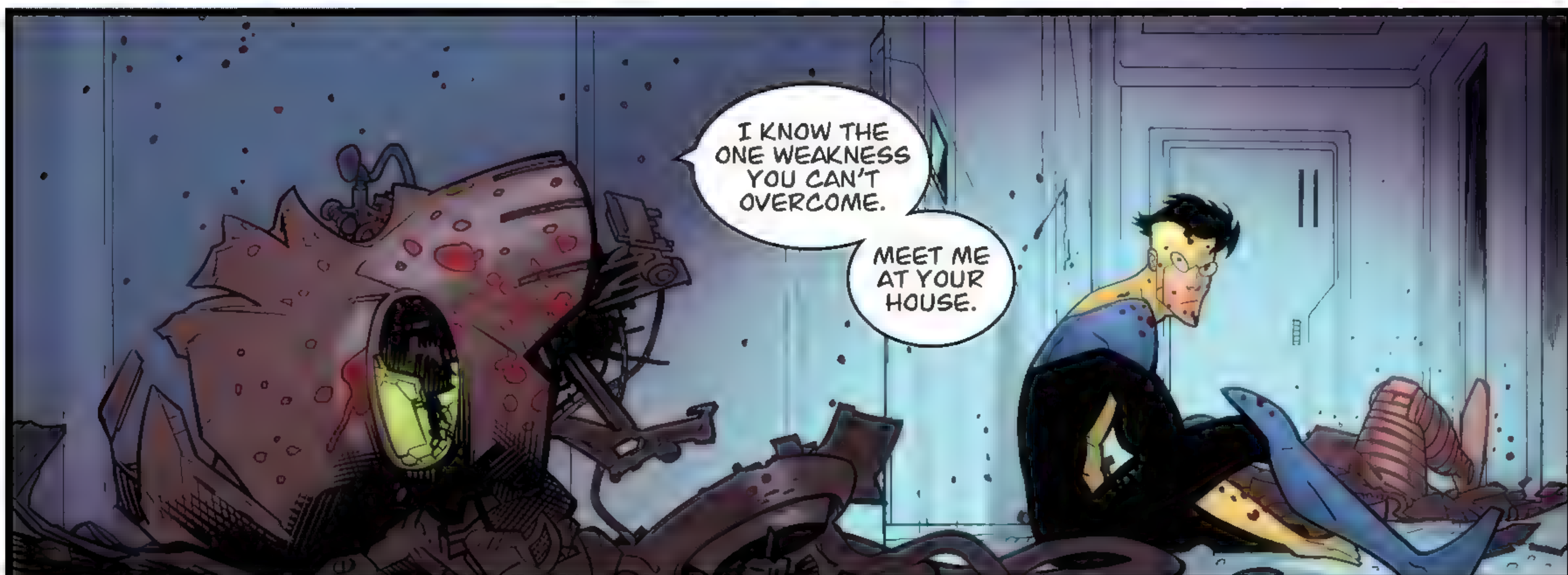
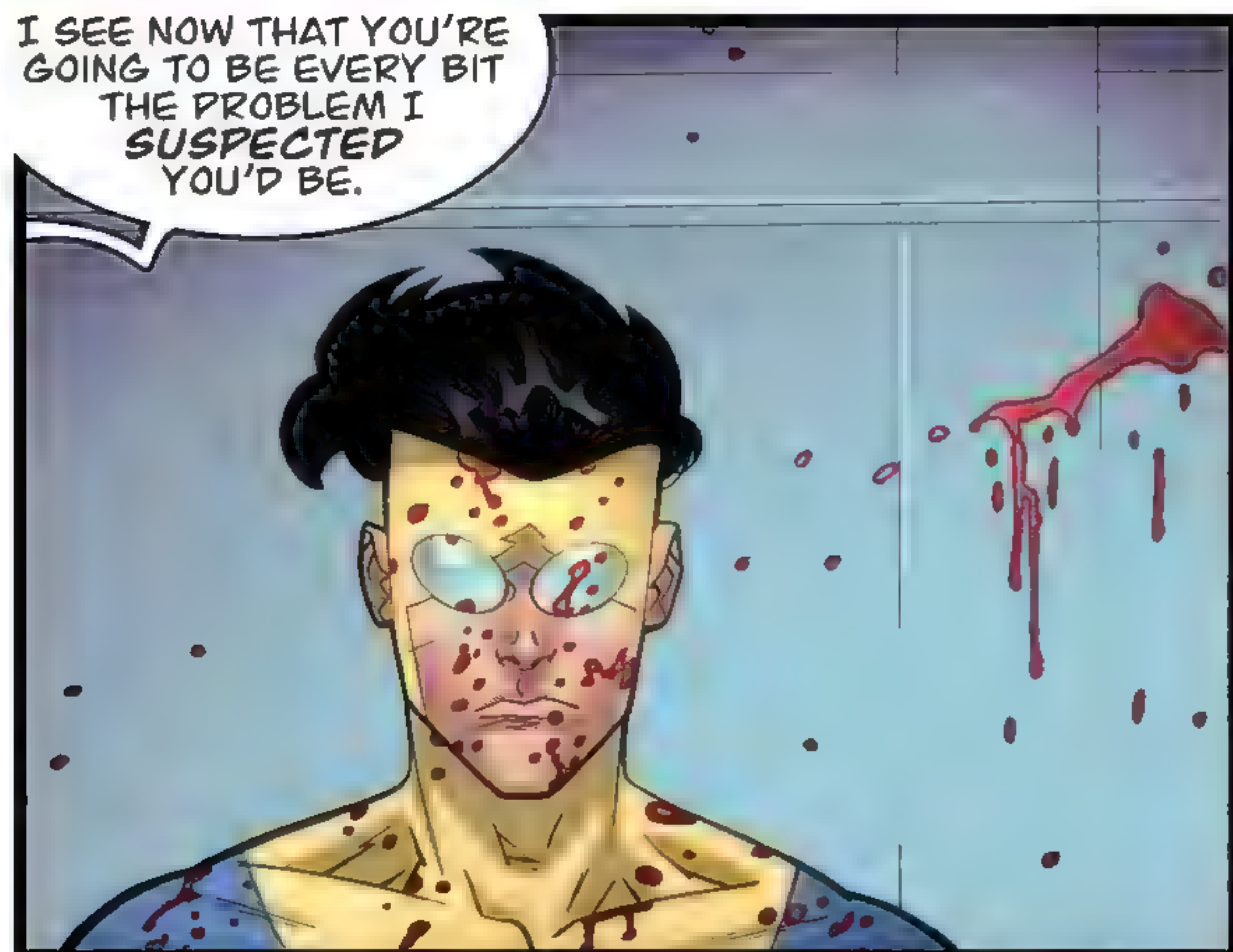


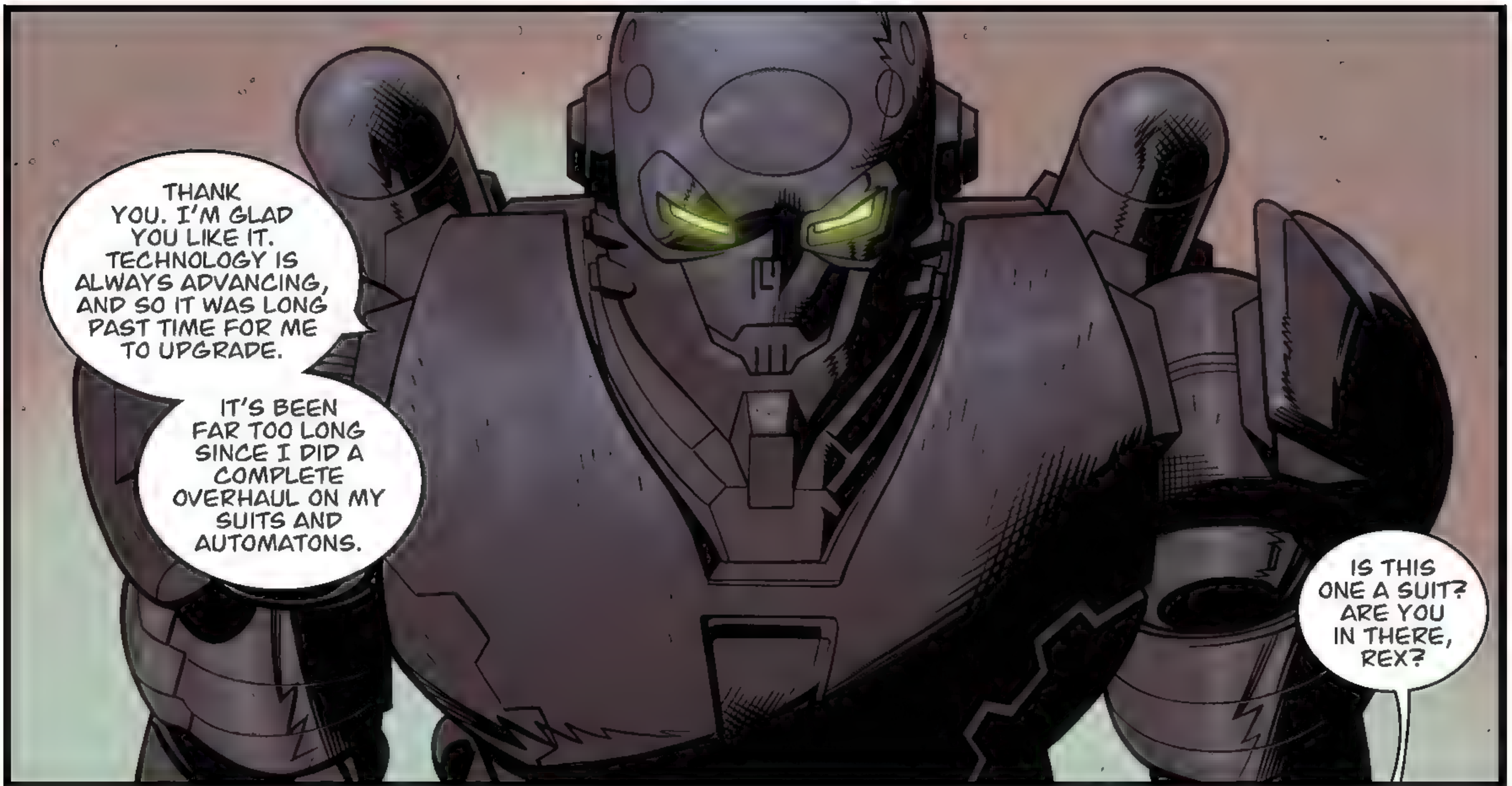






I SEE NOW THAT YOU'RE
GOING TO BE EVERY BIT
THE PROBLEM I
SUSPECTED
YOU'D BE.





THANK YOU. I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT. TECHNOLOGY IS ALWAYS ADVANCING, AND SO IT WAS LONG PAST TIME FOR ME TO UPGRADE.

IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I DID A COMPLETE OVERHAUL ON MY SUITS AND AUTOMATONS.

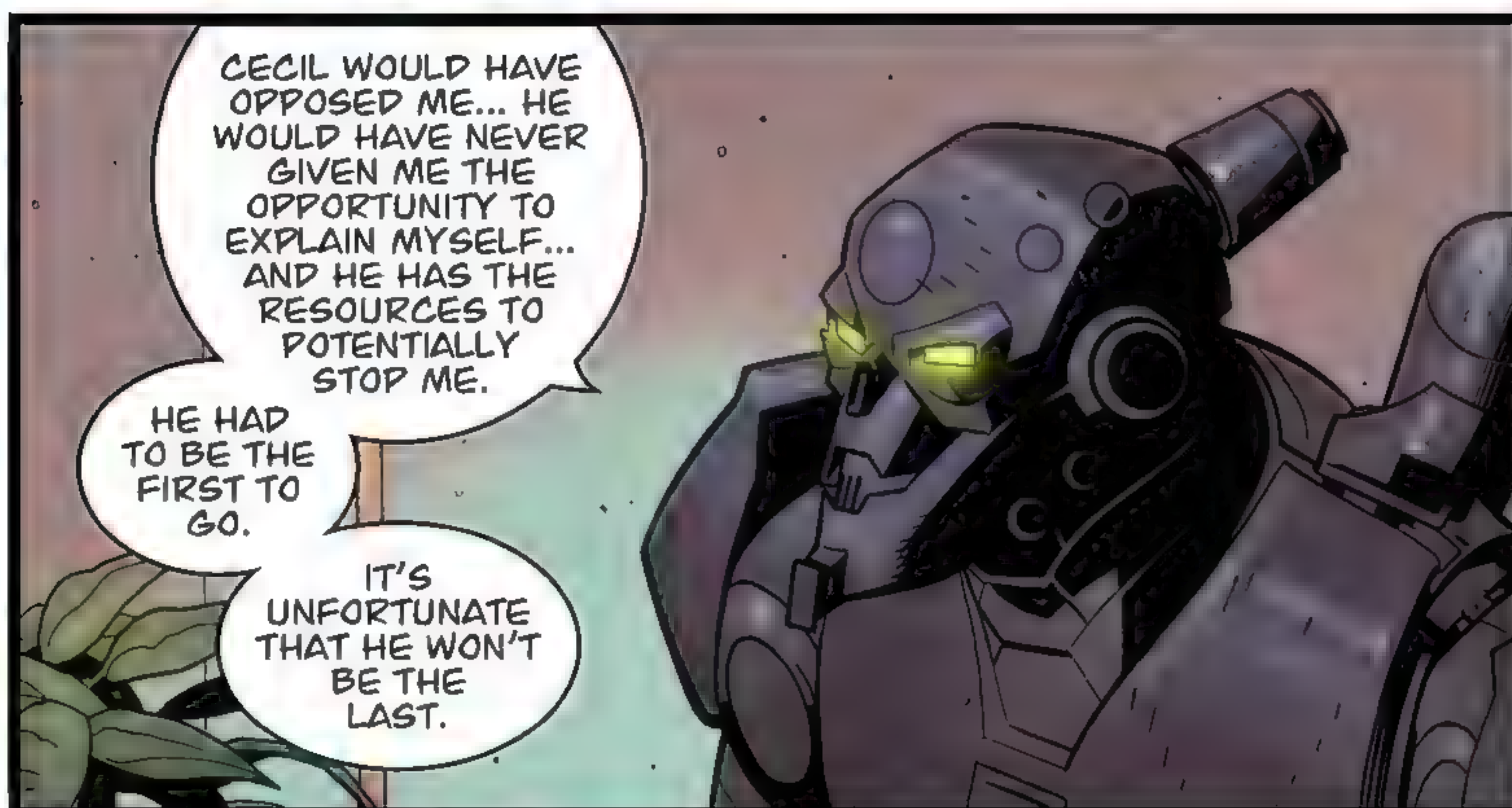
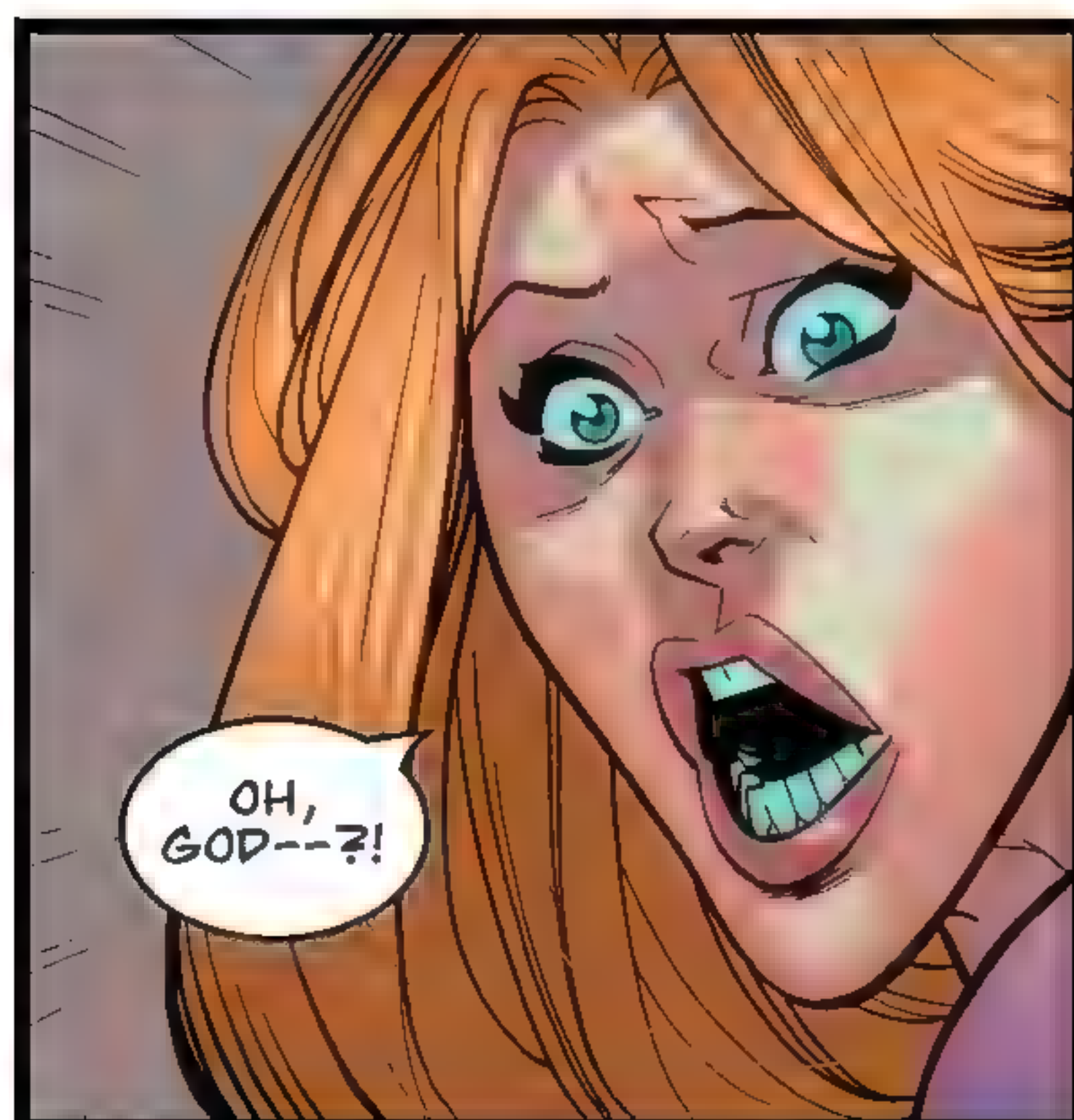
IS THIS ONE A SUIT? ARE YOU IN THERE, REX?

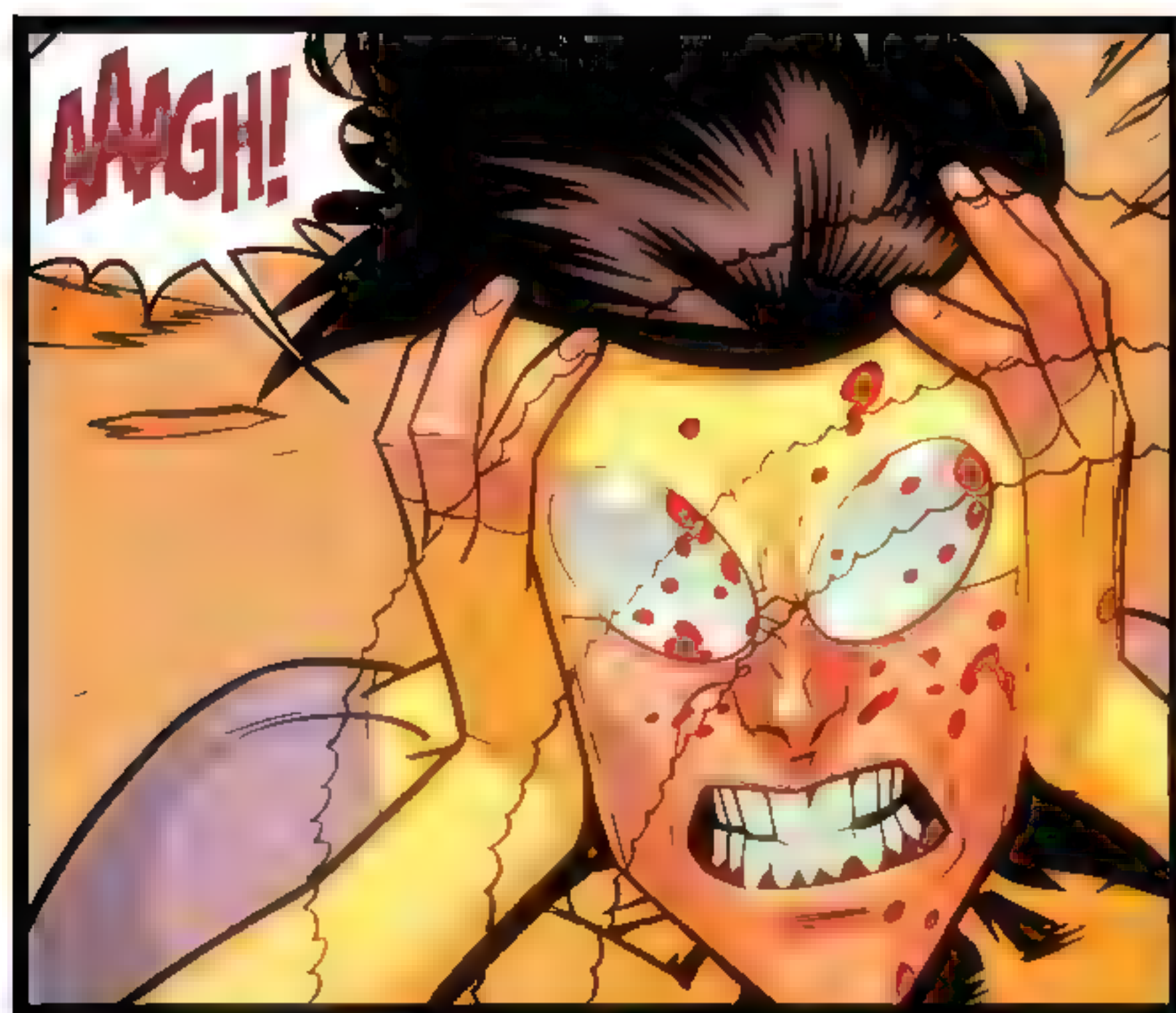
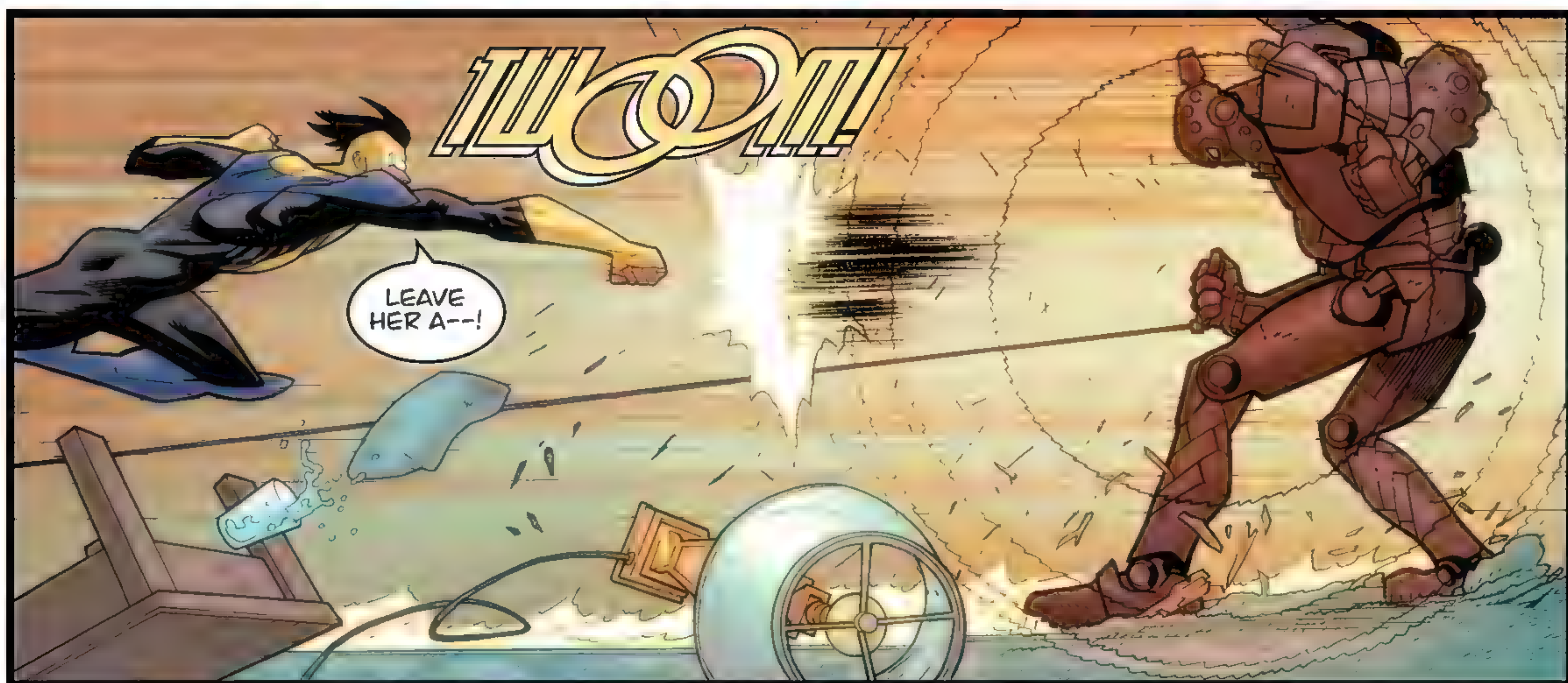
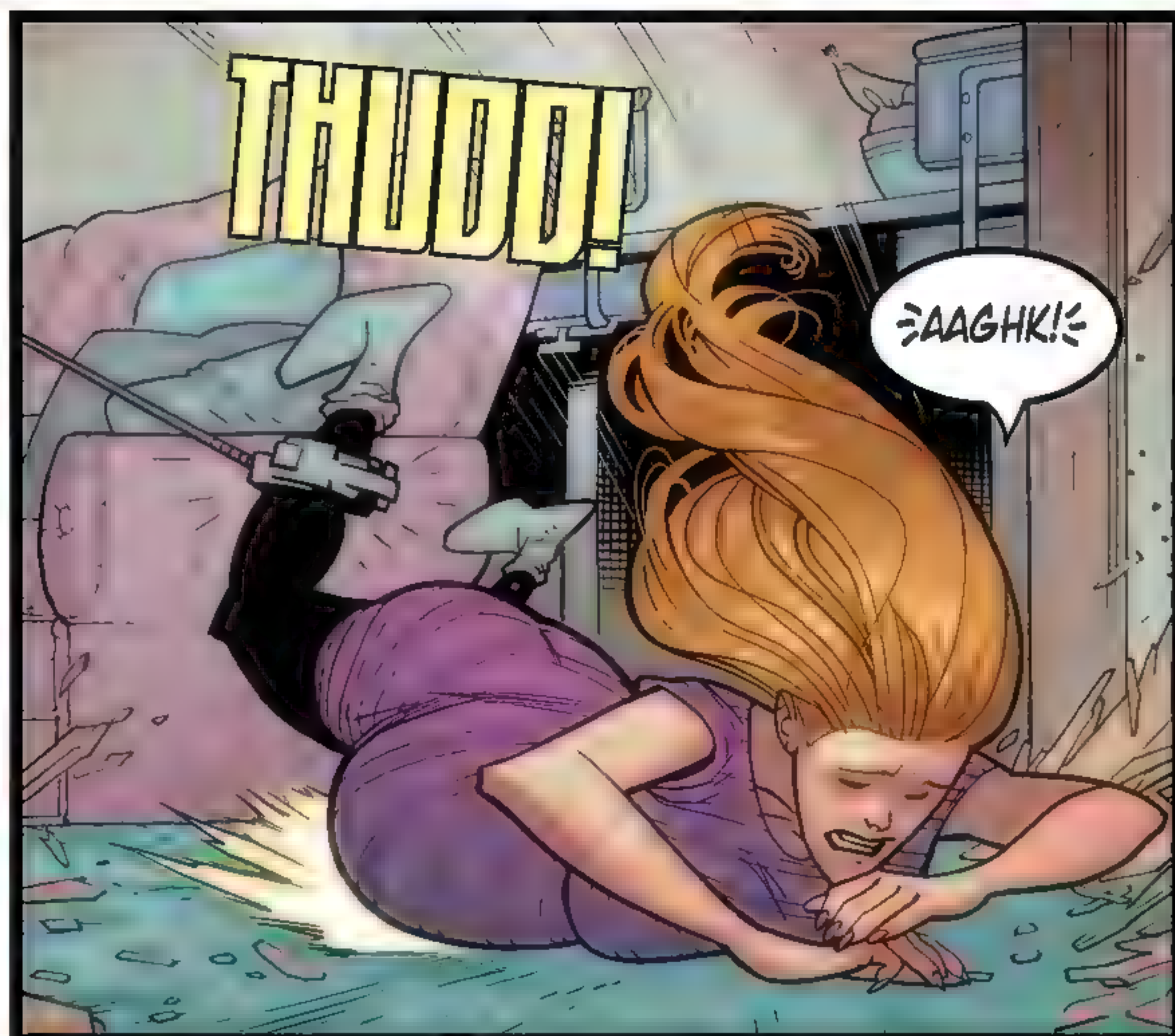


EVE, GET BEHIND ME-- HURRY!

I'D RATHER NOT SAY.

MARK?! WHAT IN--?!



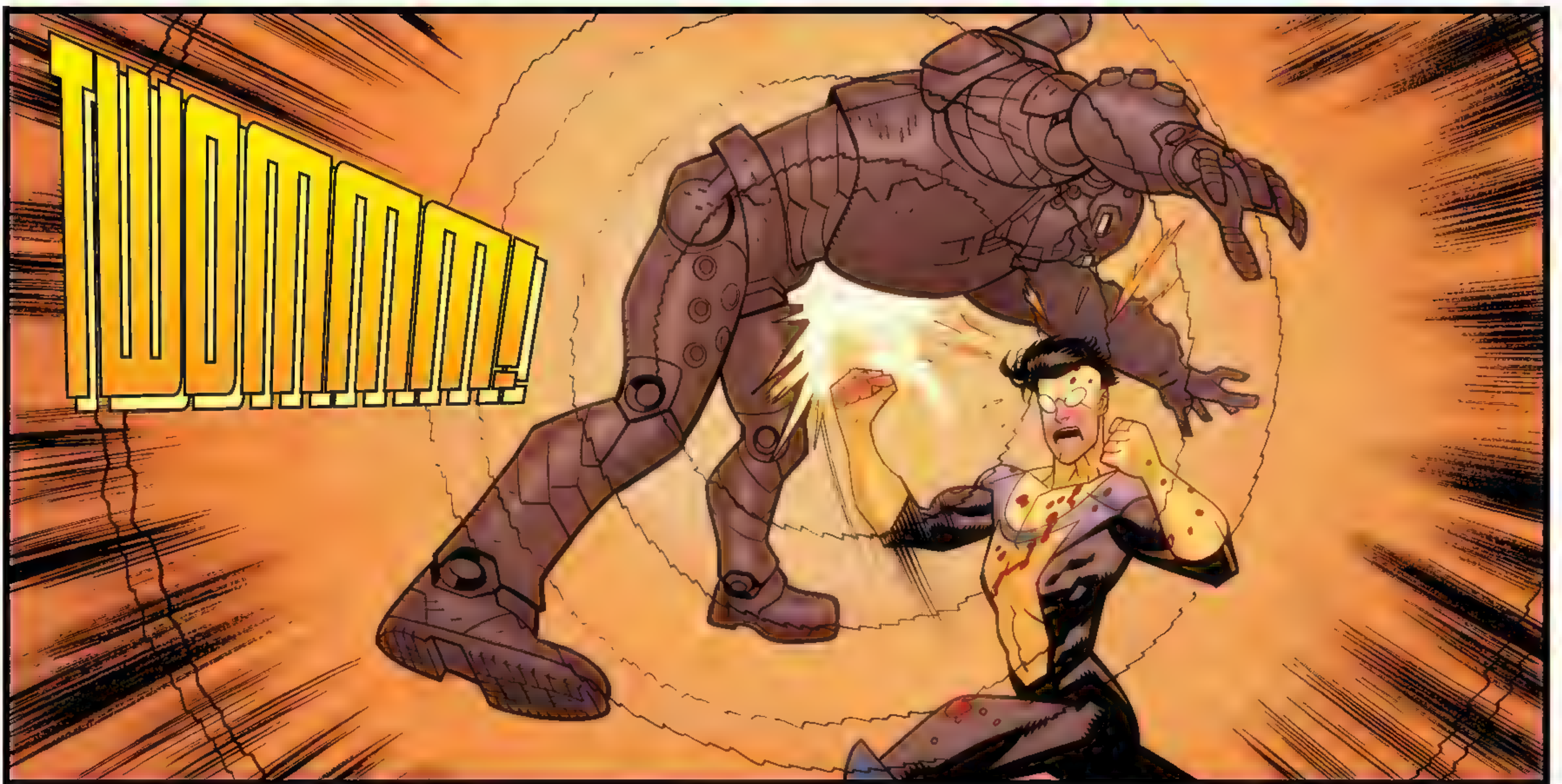


WHILE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE THE STRENGTH OF THIS SUIT, I KNEW IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO CONSTRUCT ARMOR YOU COULDN'T DESTROY.

I FASHIONED THIS ARMOR FROM A VOLCANIC TEMPERED TITANIUM ALLOY I CREATED, WHICH I BELIEVE TO NOW BE THE STRONGEST METAL ON EARTH. BUT I KNEW THAT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH...

SO I FASHIONED ALL THE PANELS TO THE EXACT ANGLES NEEDED TO PRODUCE A HIGH-PITCHED TONE UPON IMPACT THAT CAN BE DEADLY TO VILTRUMITES.

IF YOU HIT ME HARD ENOUGH -- IT COULD KILL YOU.



OKAY, SEE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME.



NNNGG



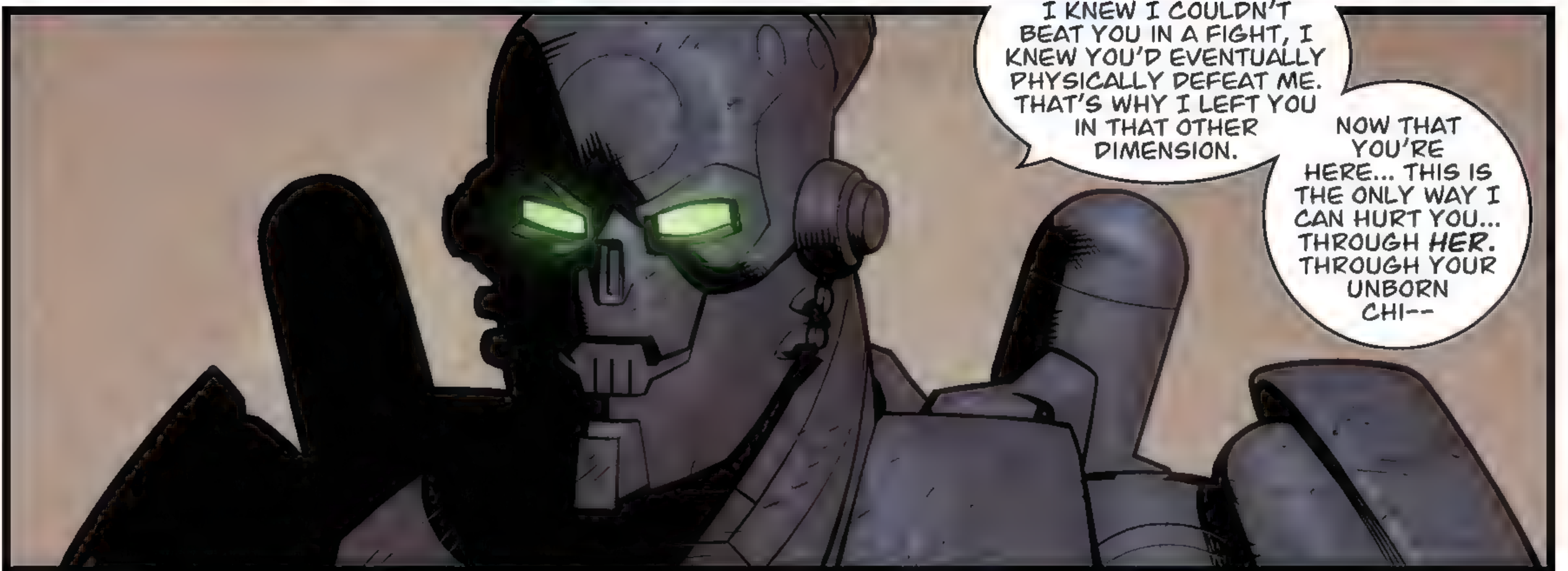
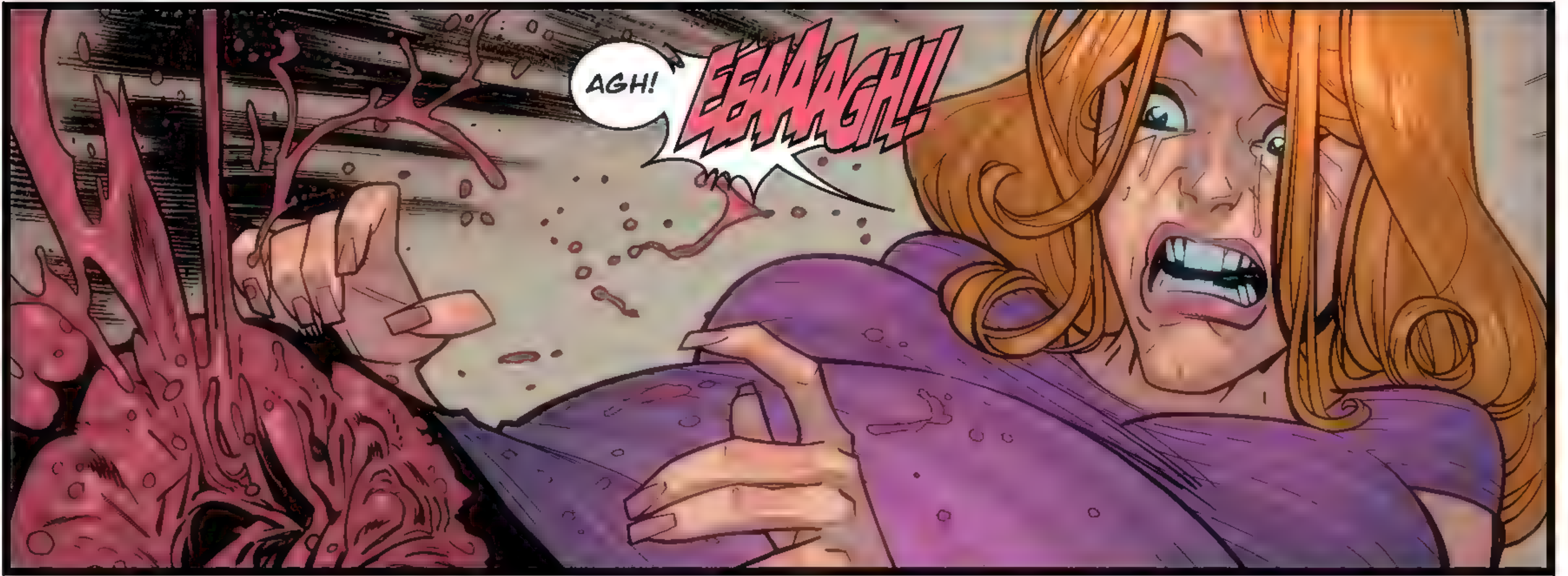
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, REX?!

WHY?!



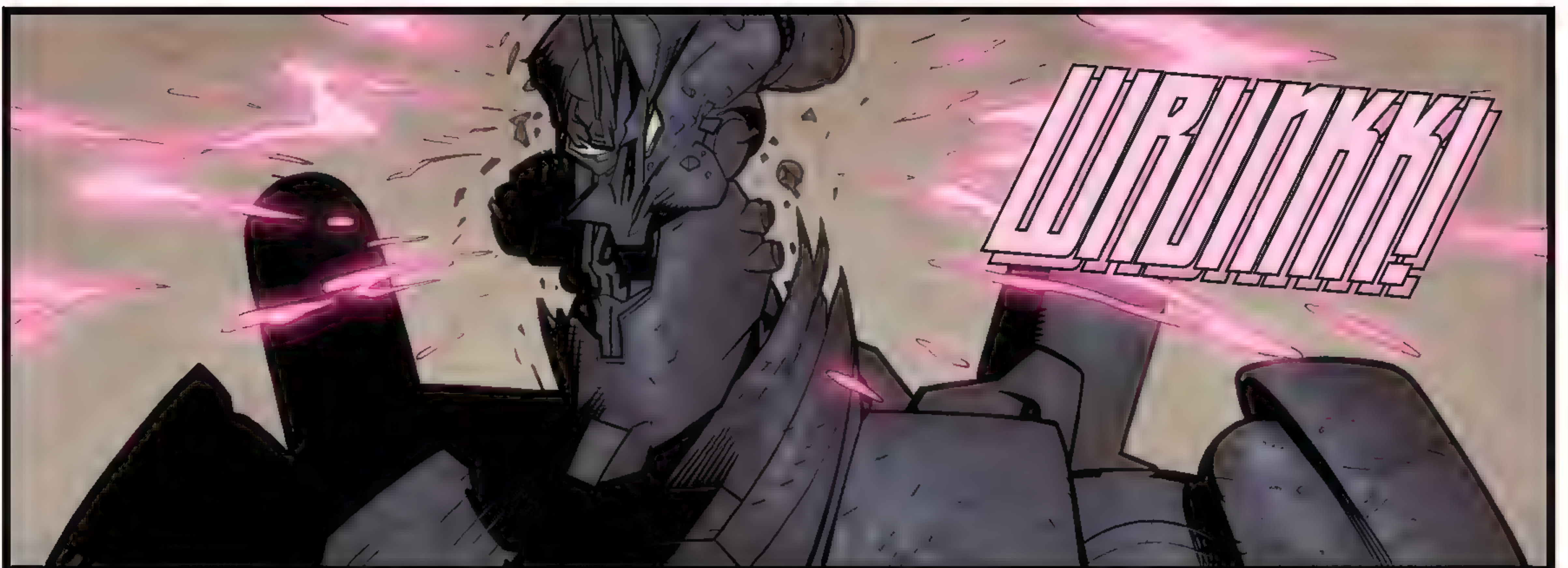
SHUT
UP.

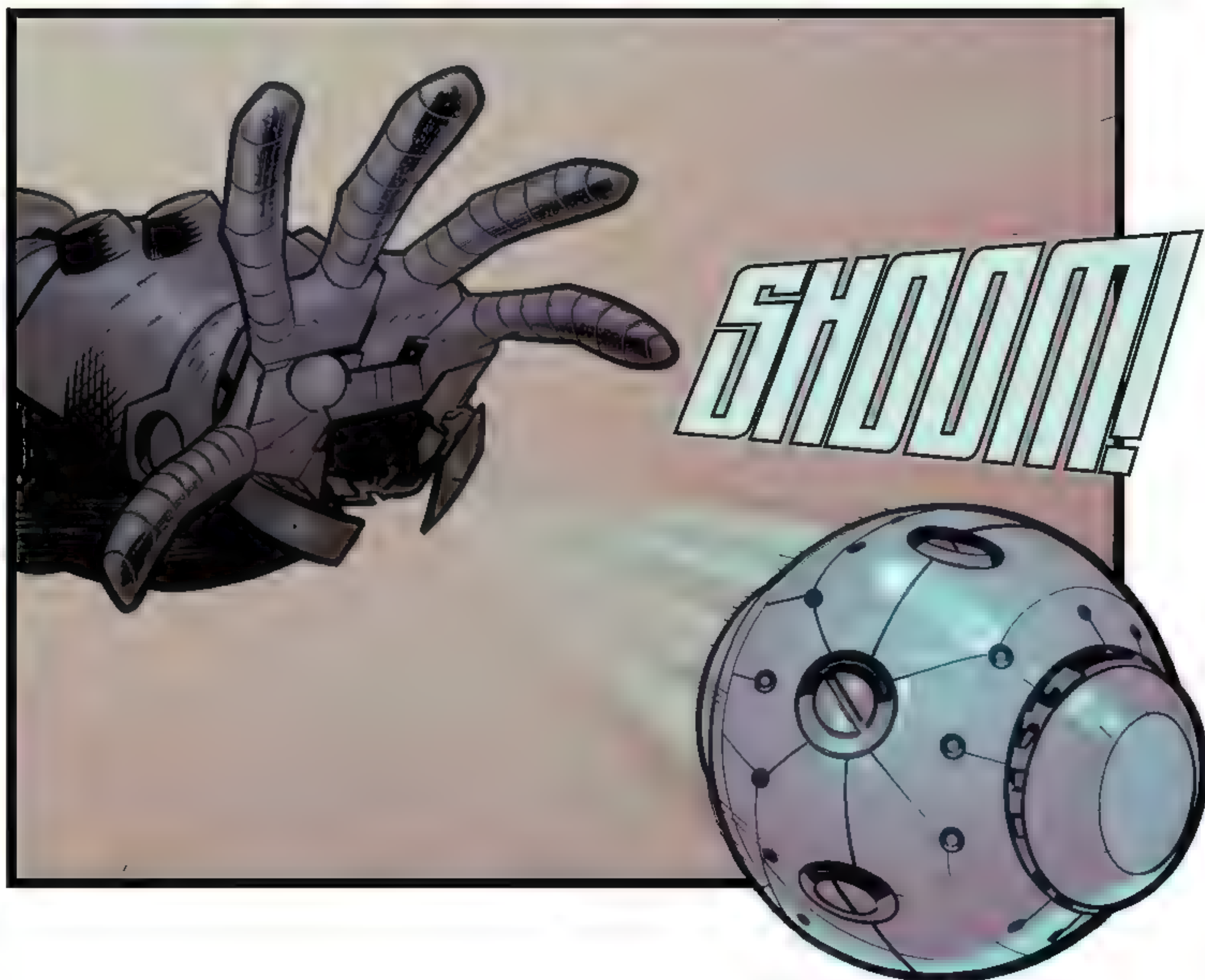
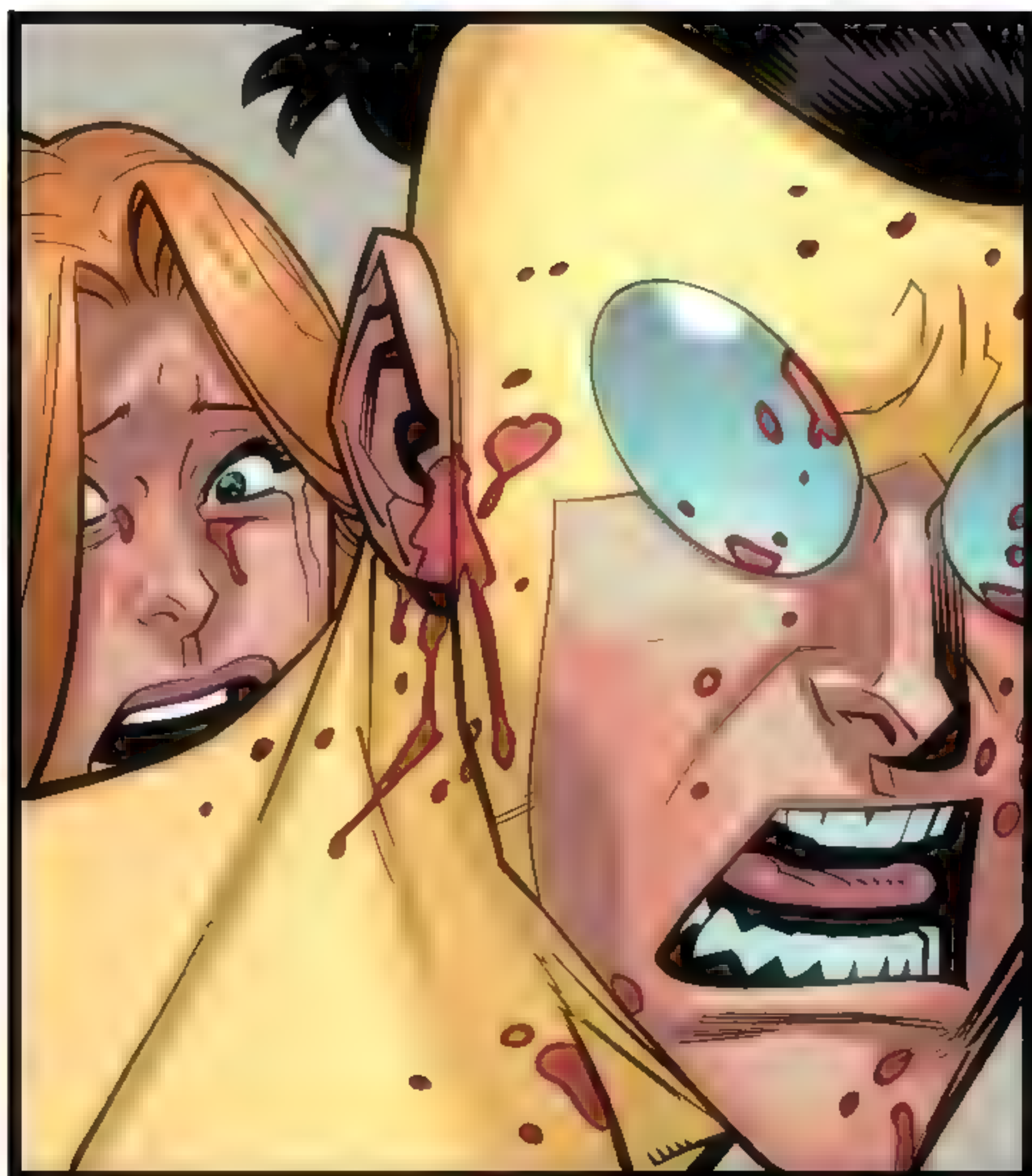
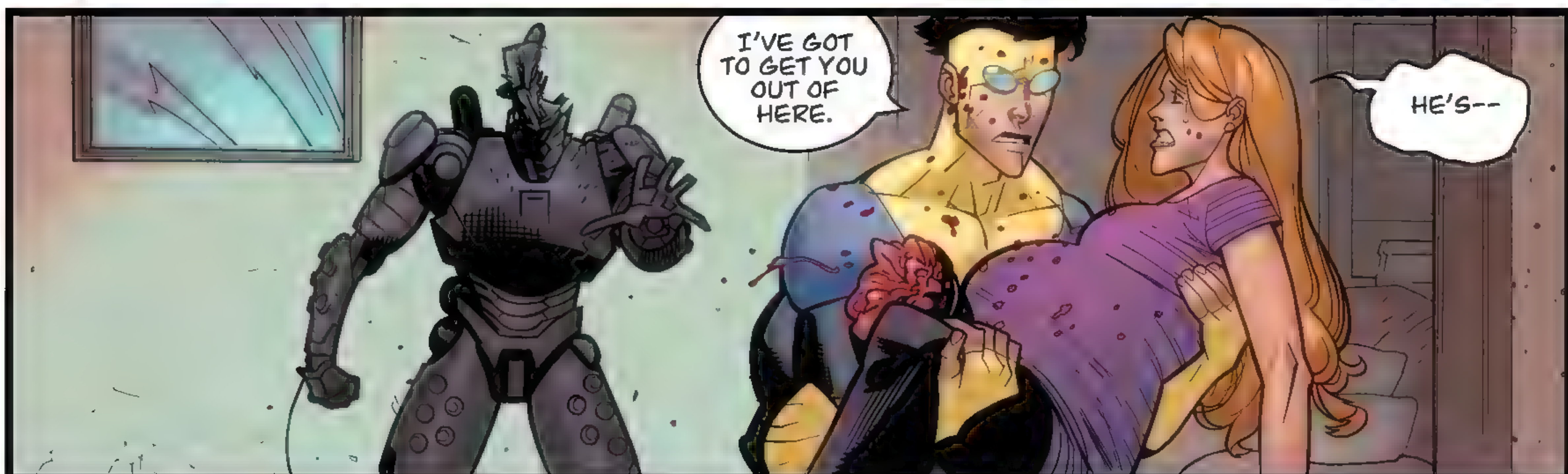
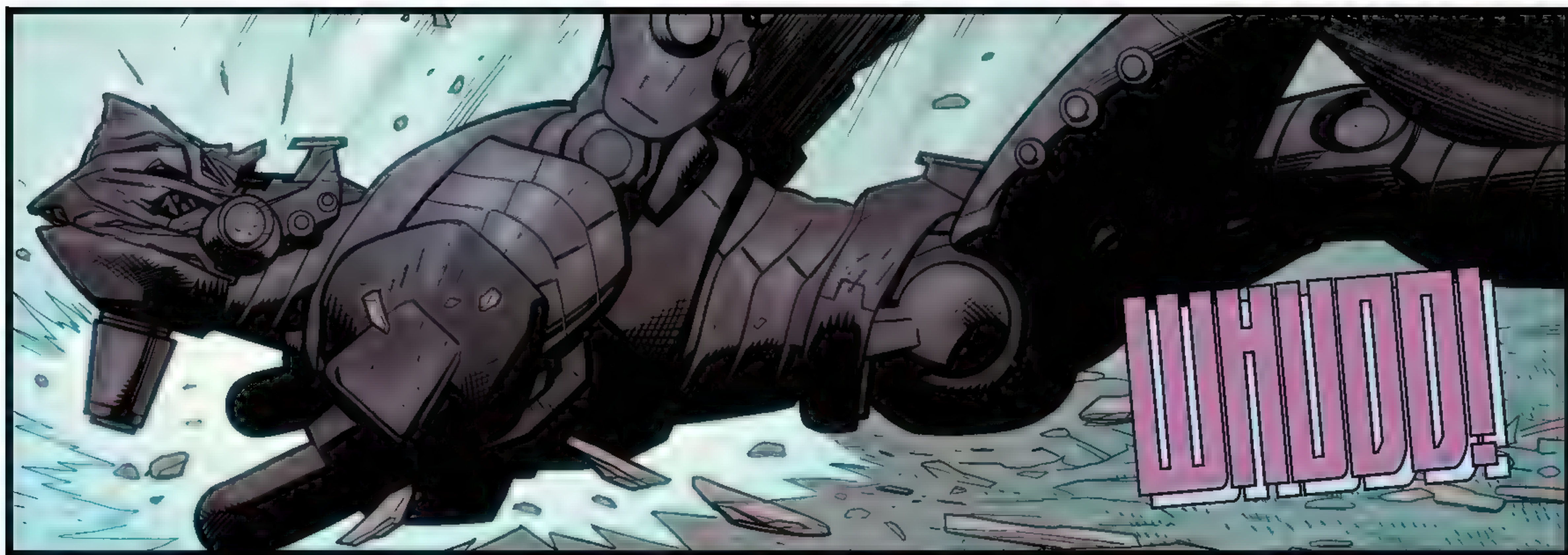
SPANG!

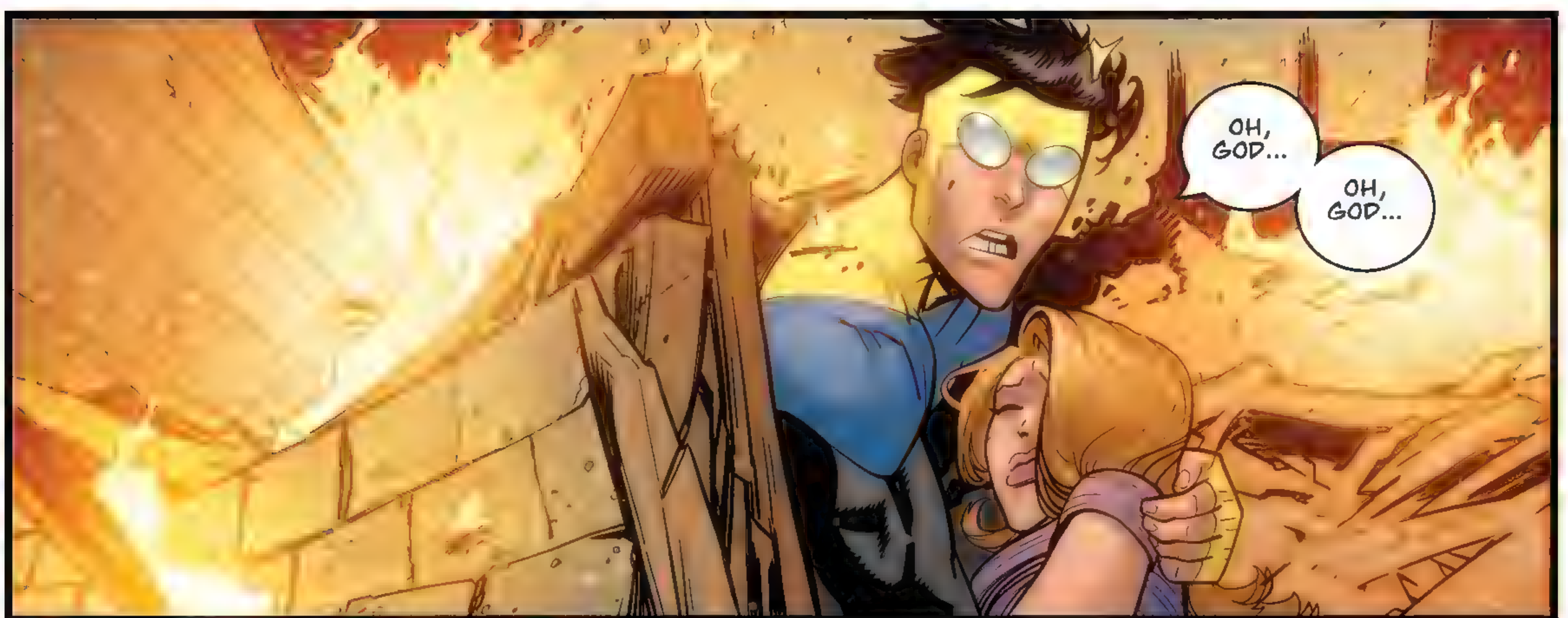


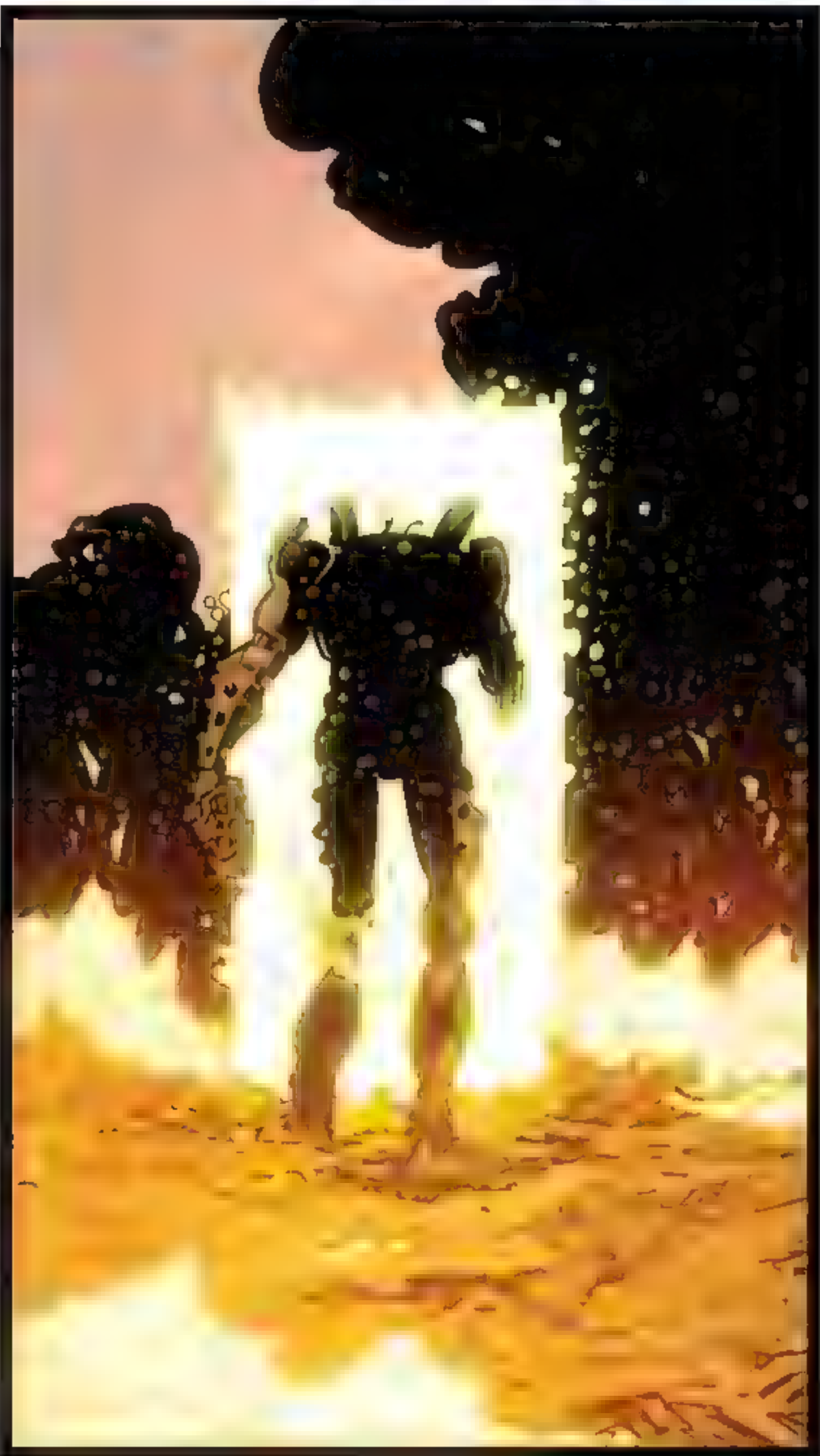
I KNEW I COULDN'T
BEAT YOU IN A FIGHT, I
KNEW YOU'D EVENTUALLY
PHYSICALLY DEFEAT ME.
THAT'S WHY I LEFT YOU
IN THAT OTHER
DIMENSION.

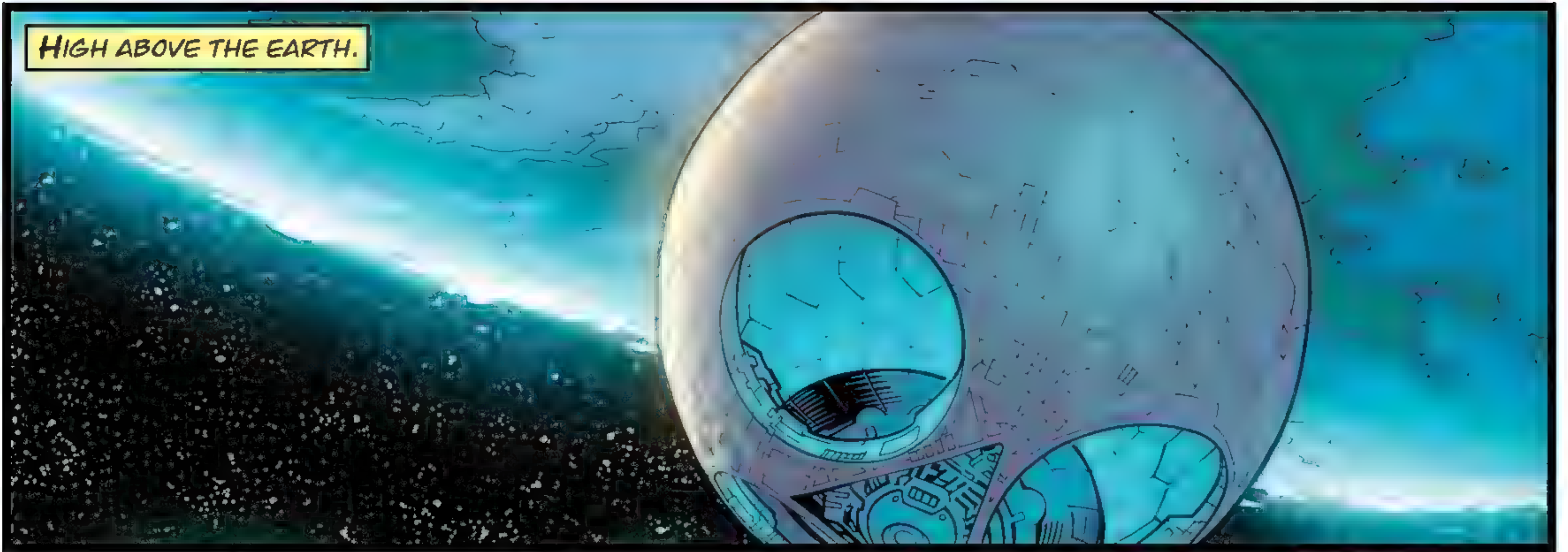
NOW THAT
YOU'RE
HERE... THIS IS
THE ONLY WAY I
CAN HURT YOU...
THROUGH HER.
THROUGH YOUR
UNBORN
CHI--

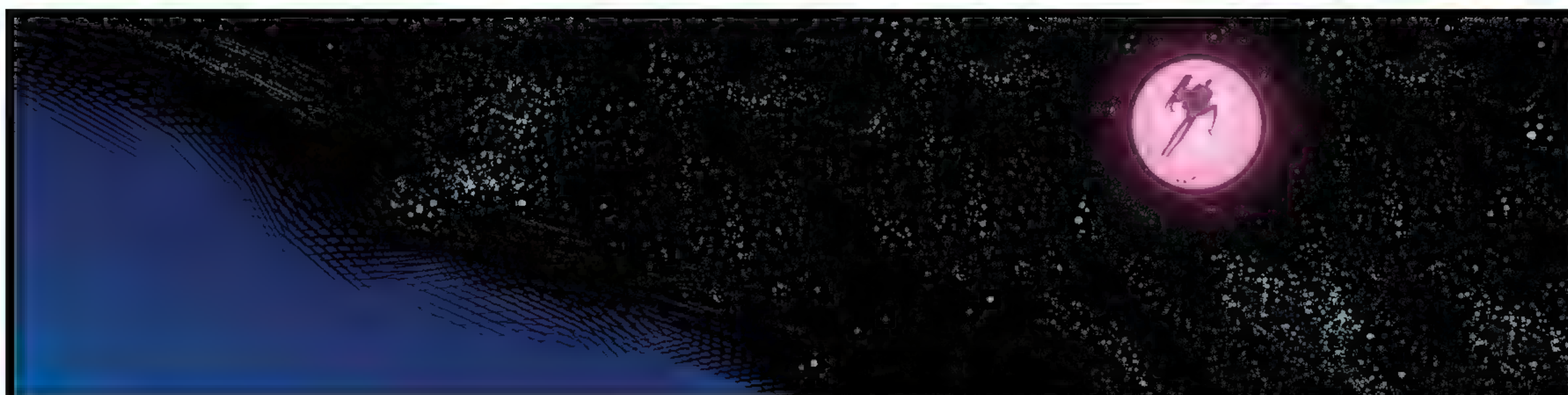
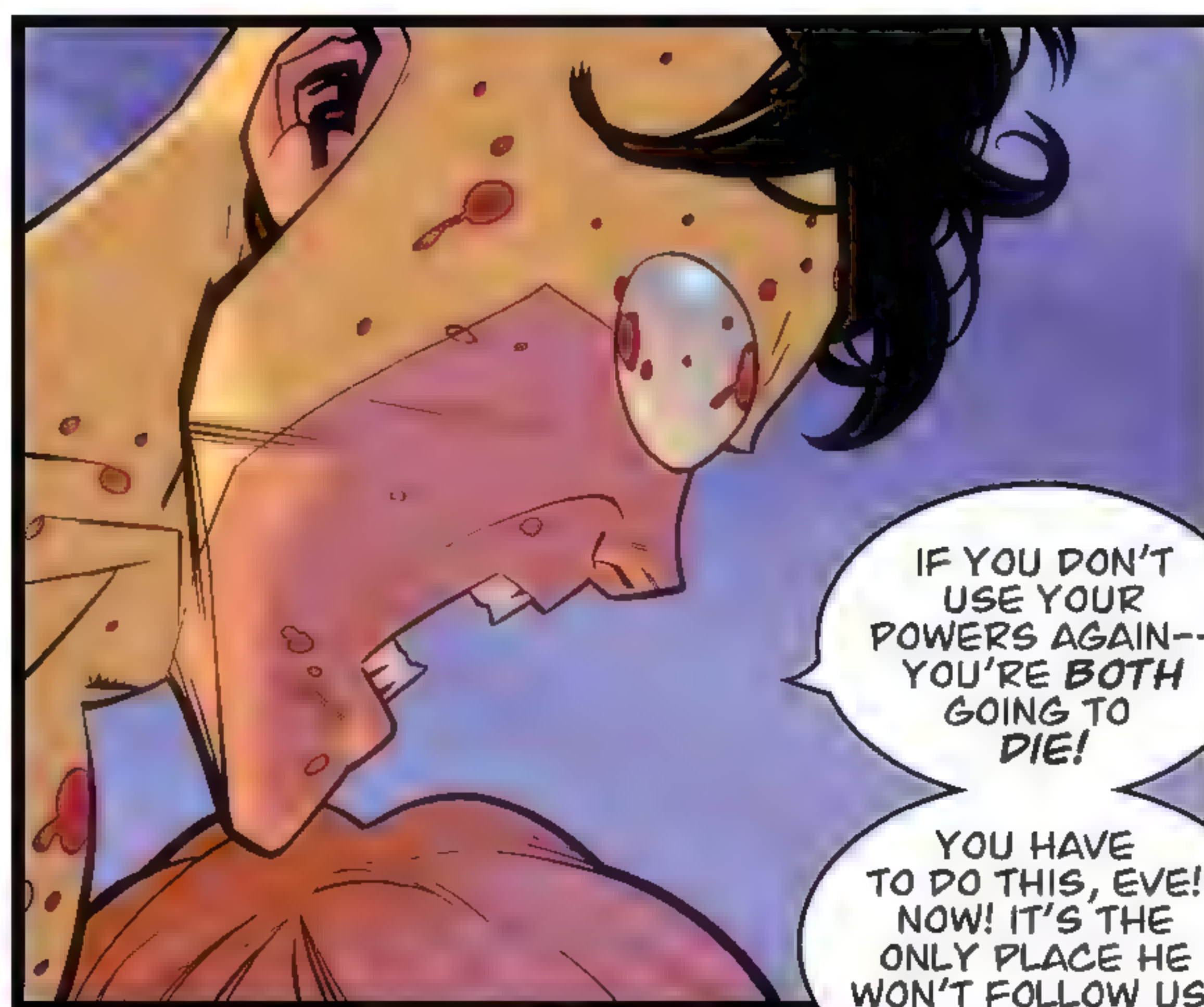
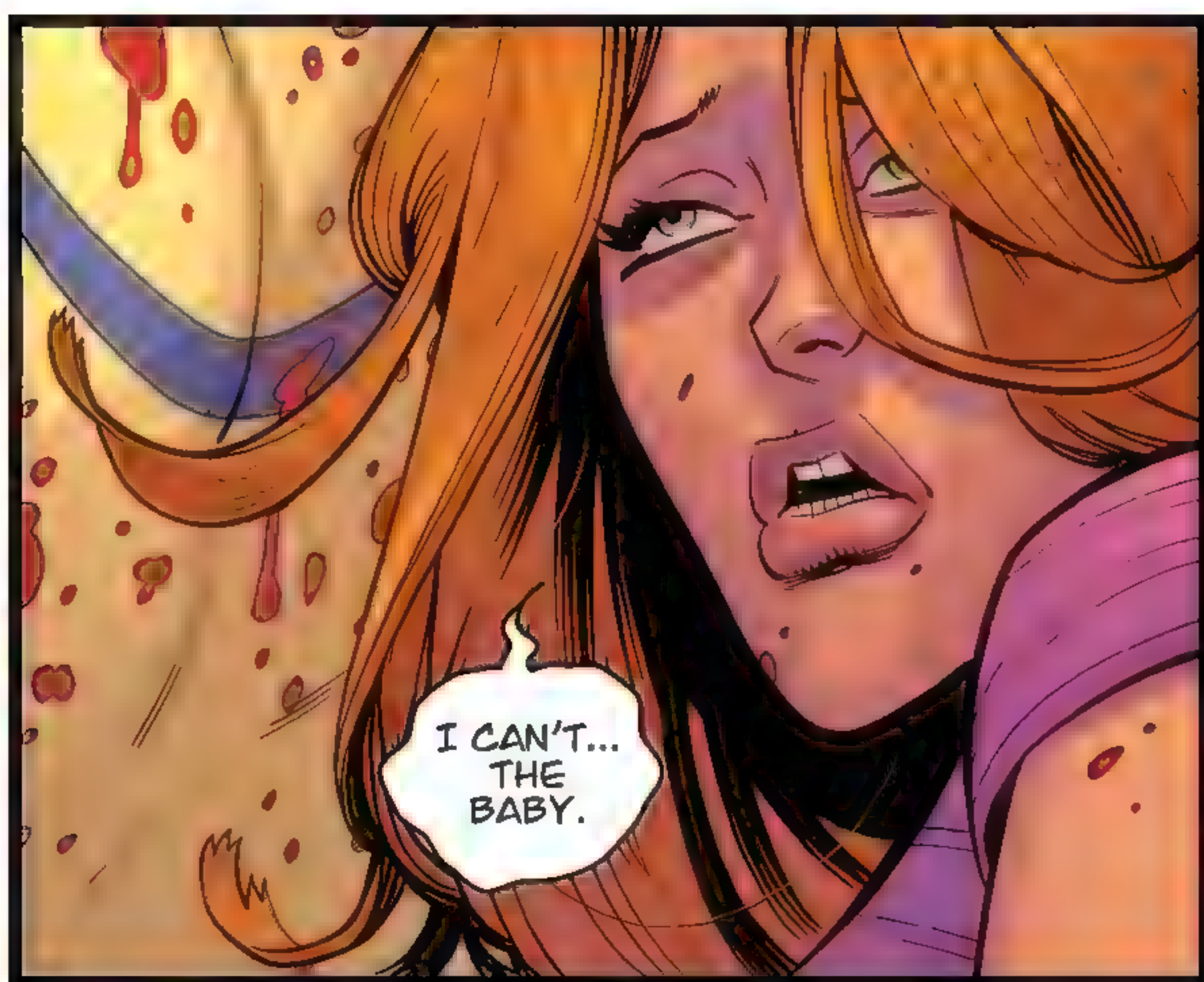


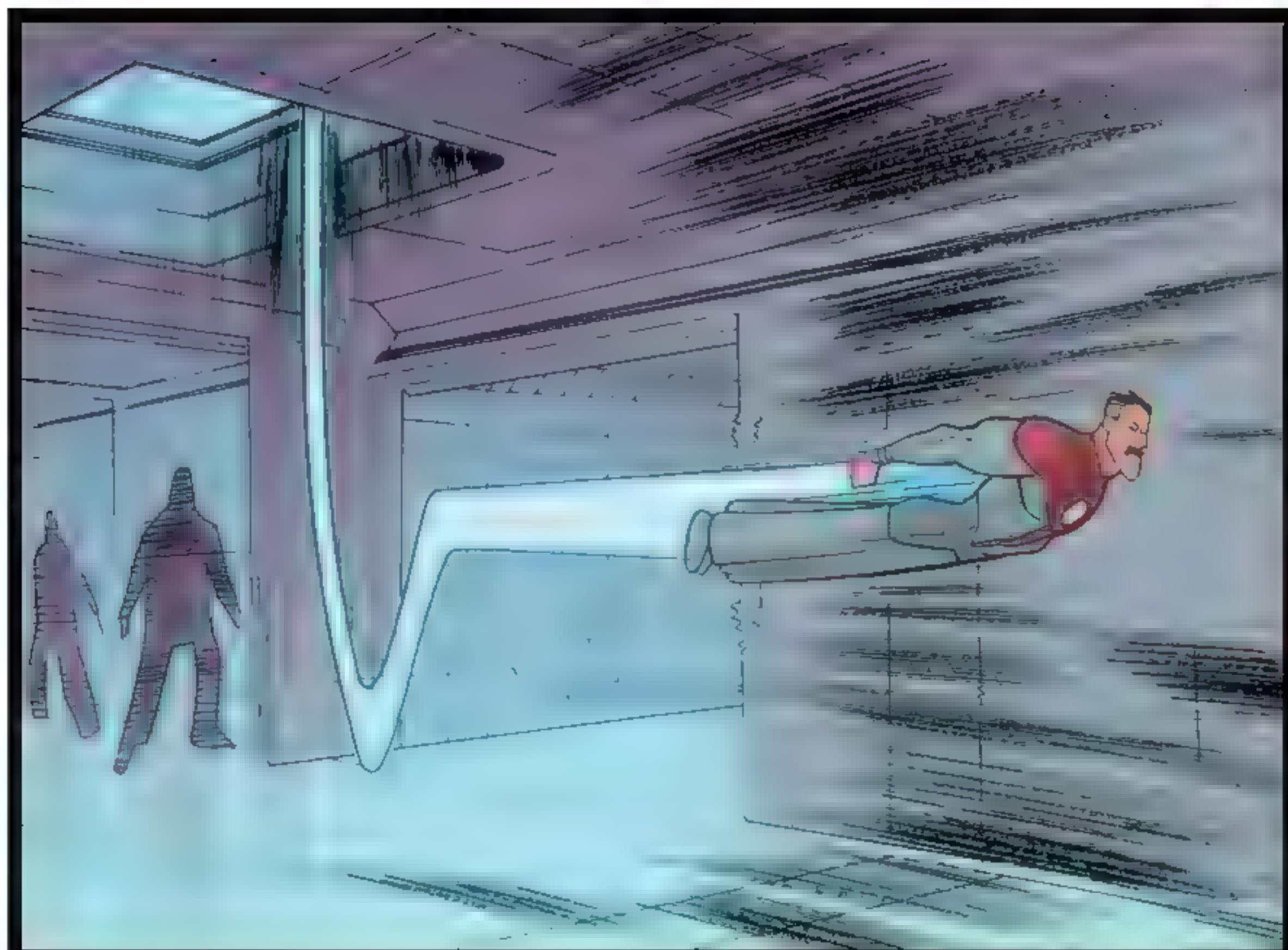
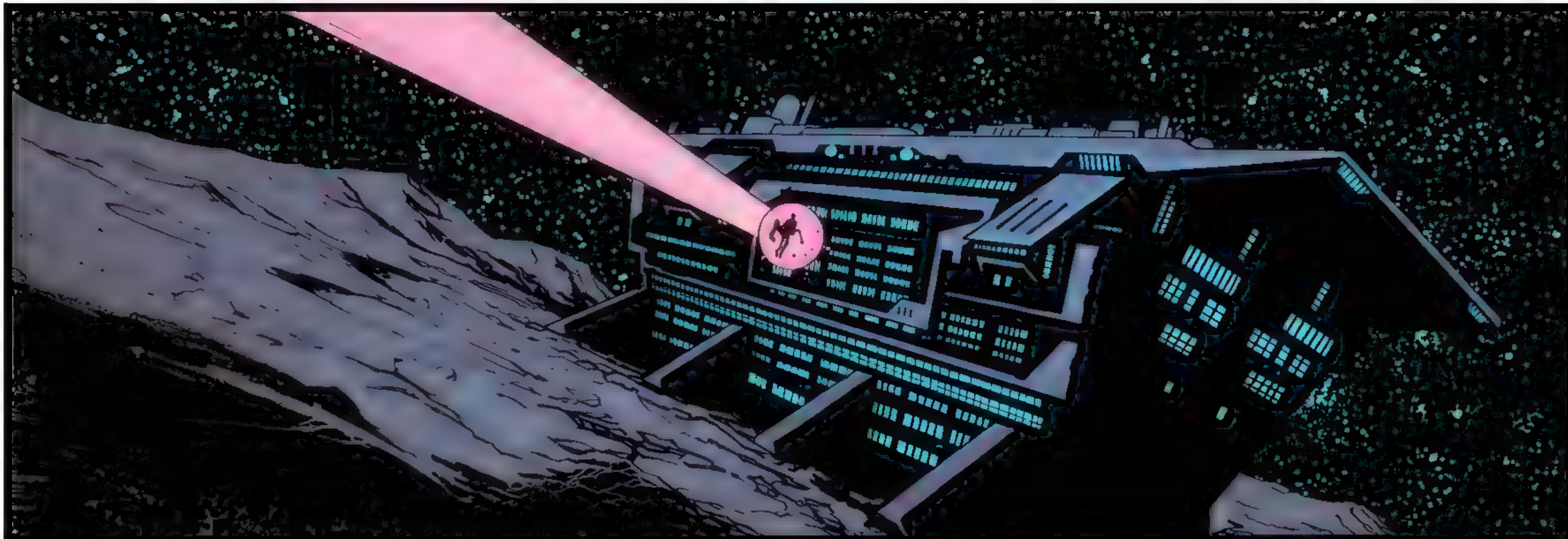














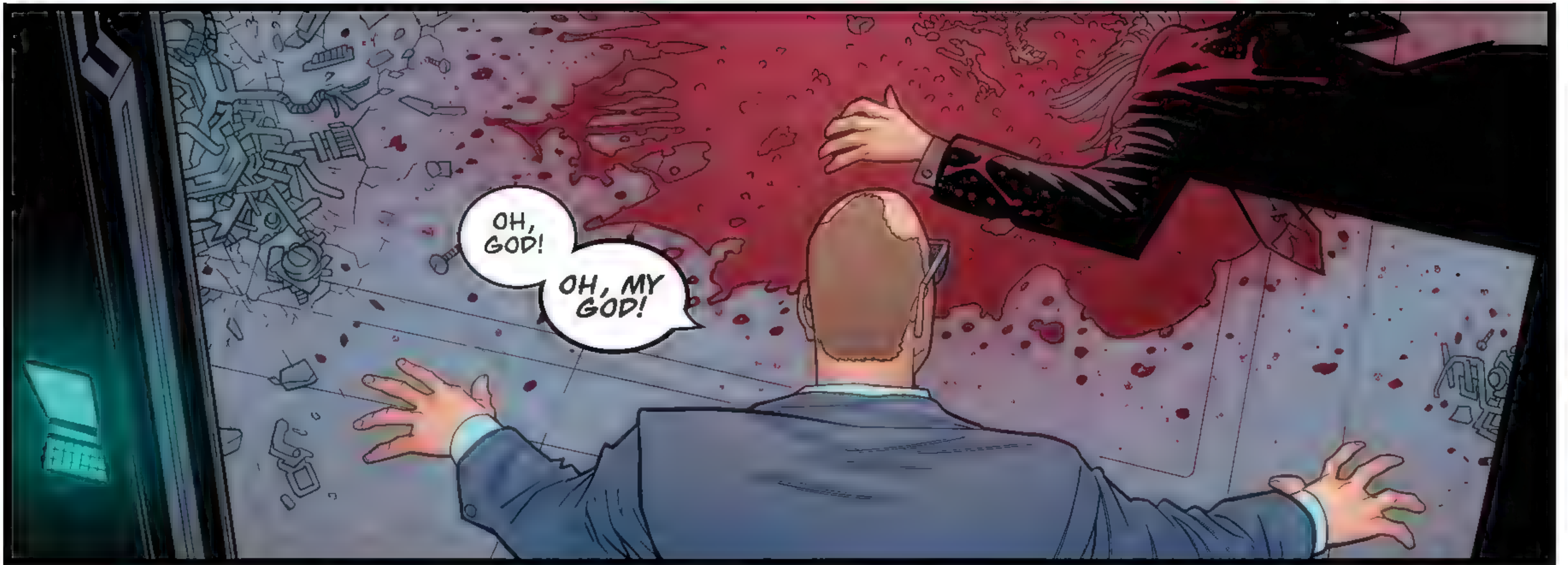
HELP...



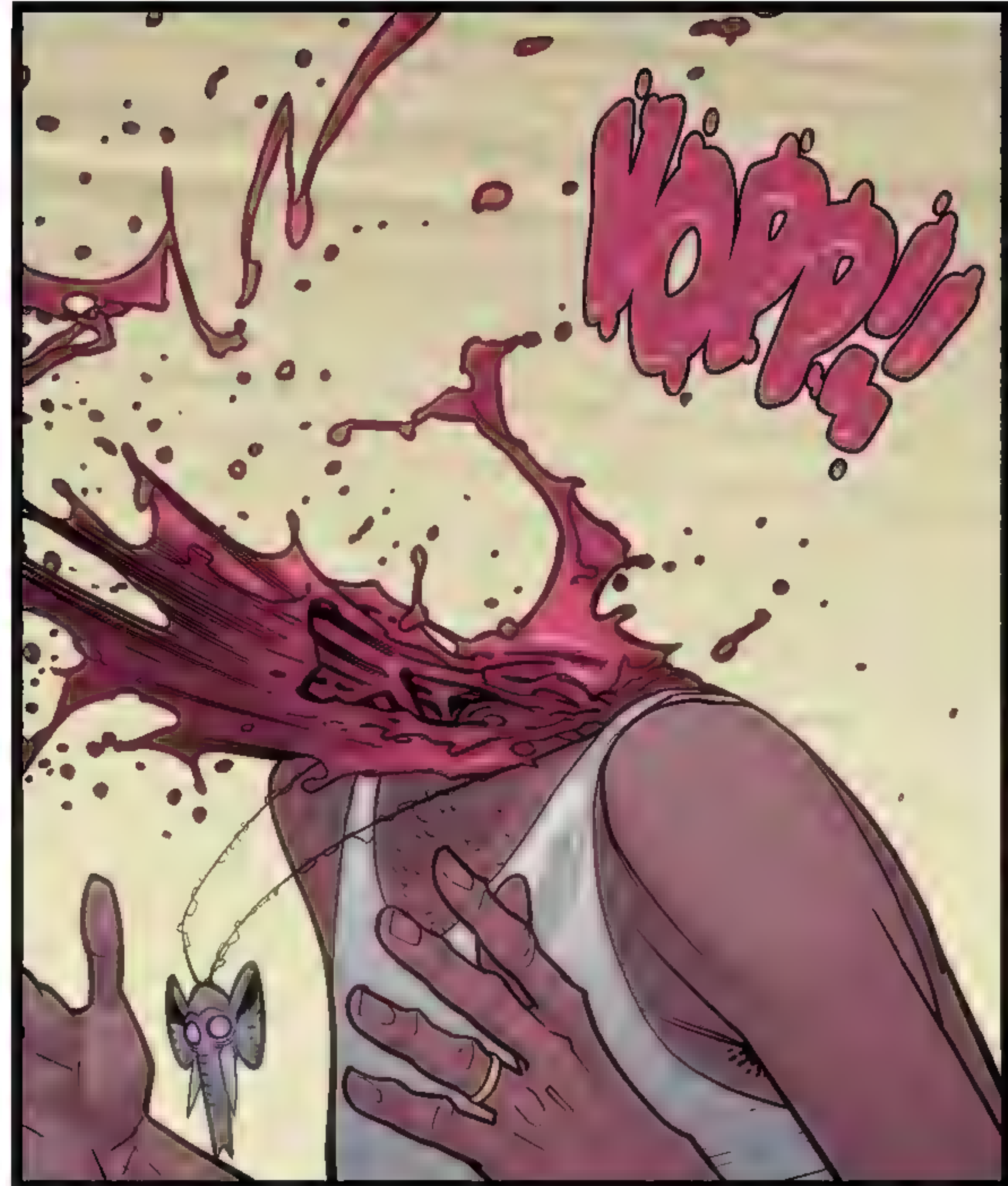
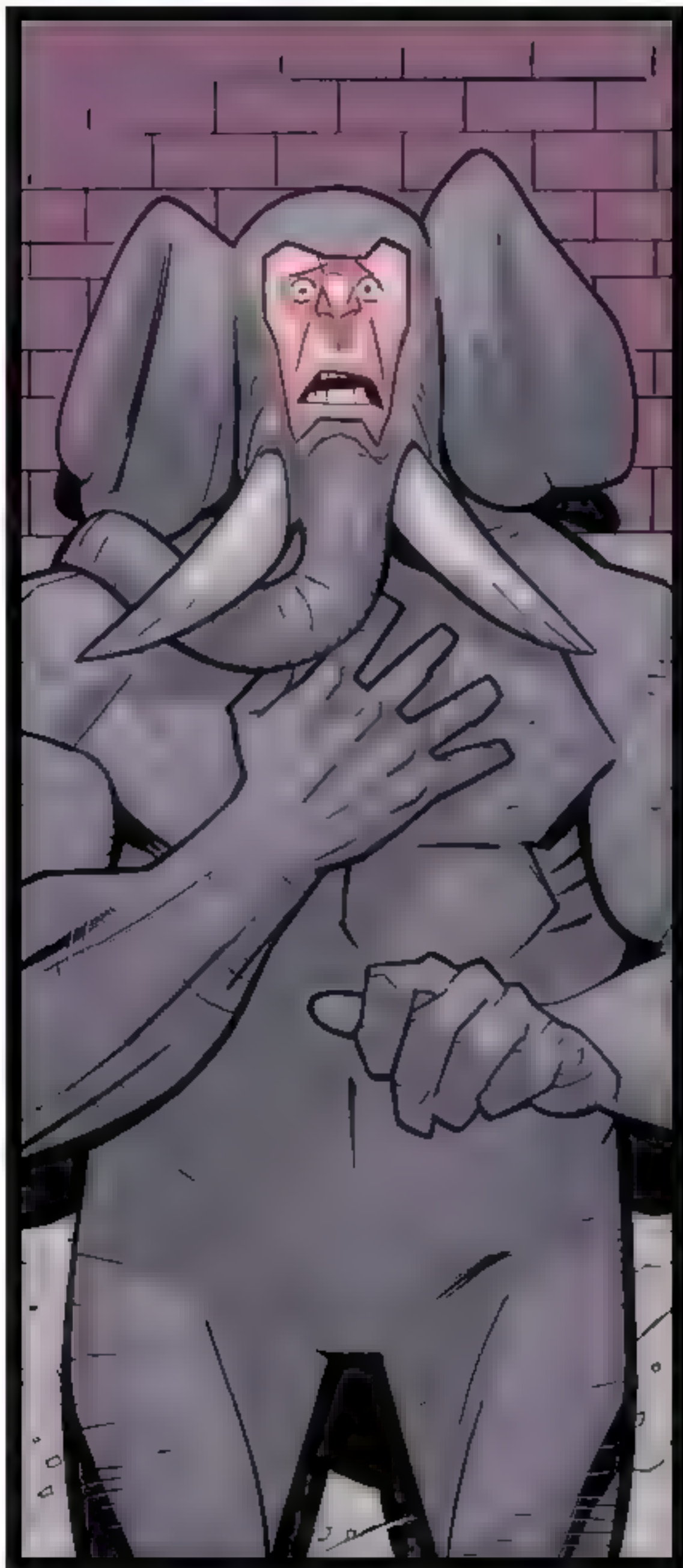
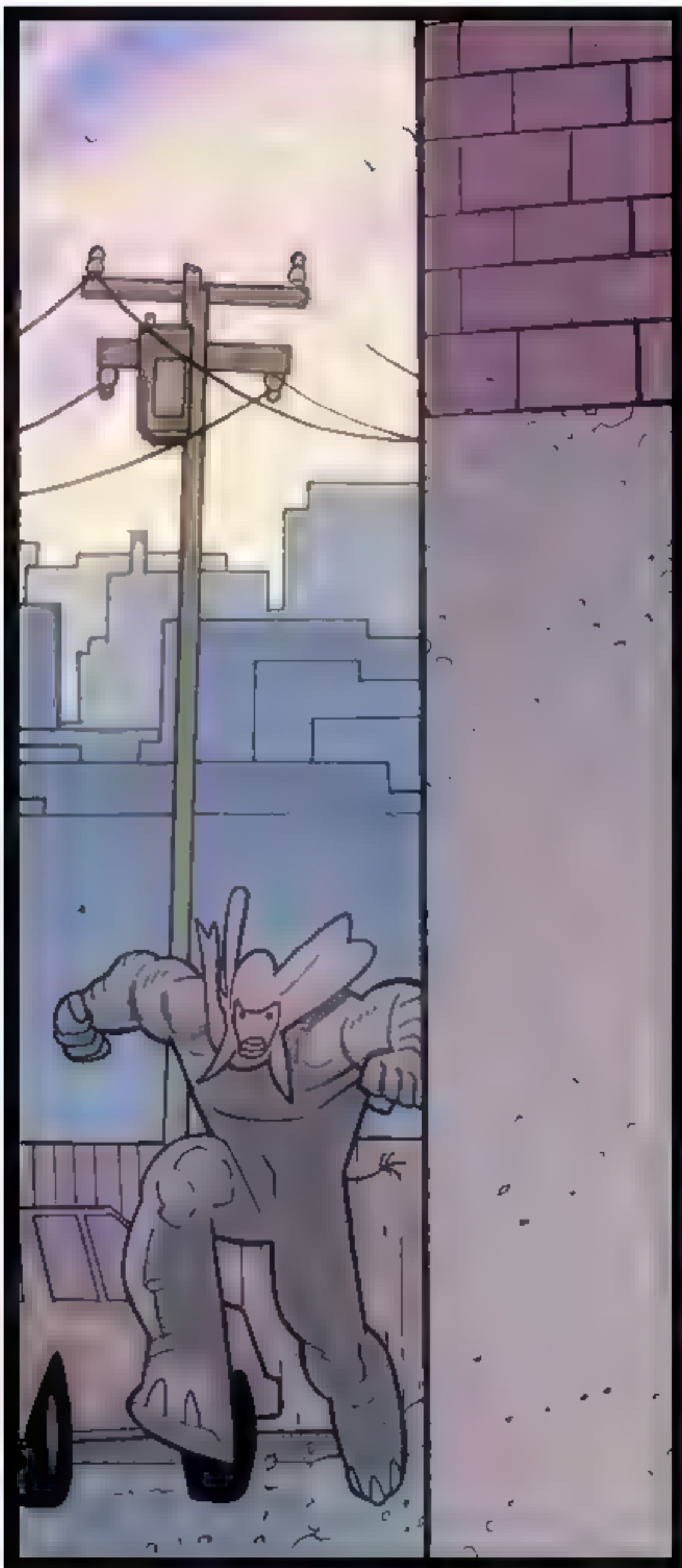


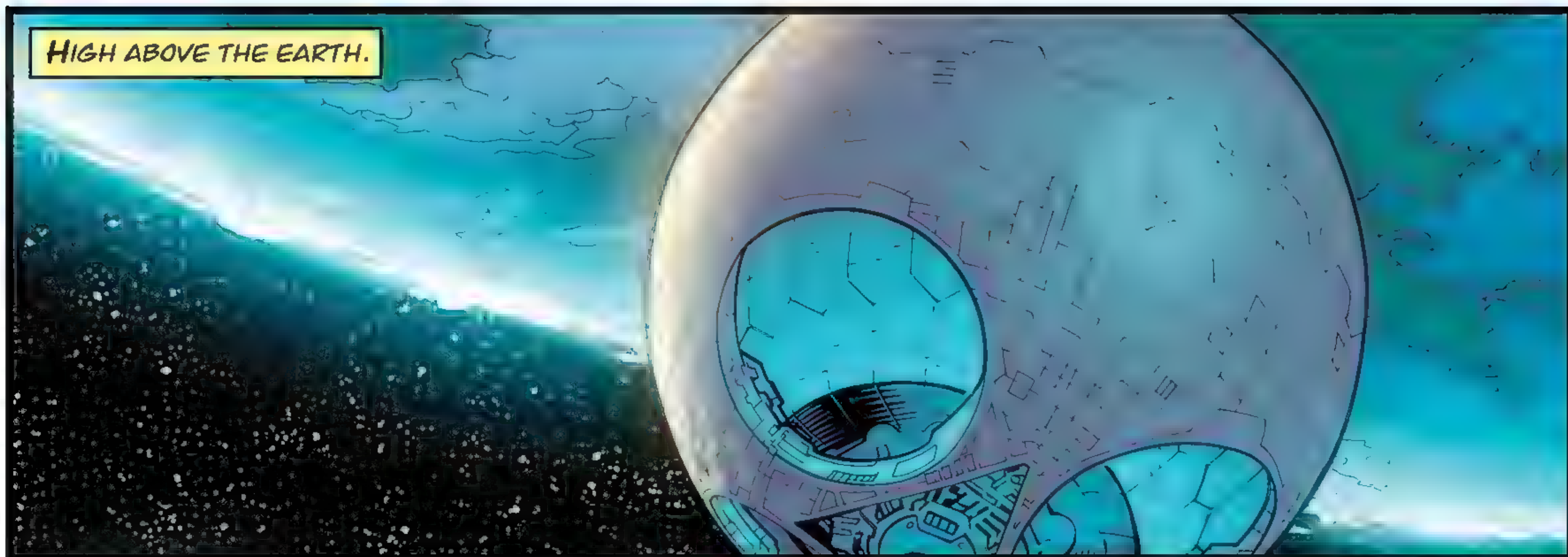
CHAPTER FOUR

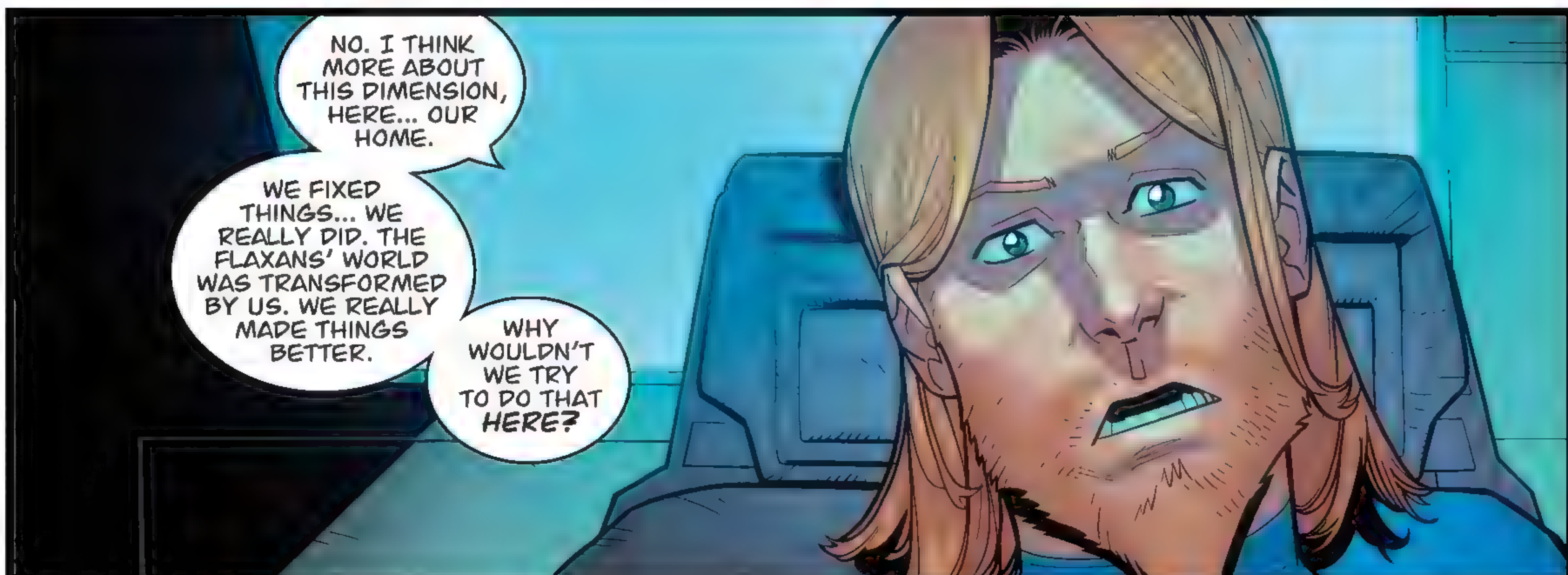
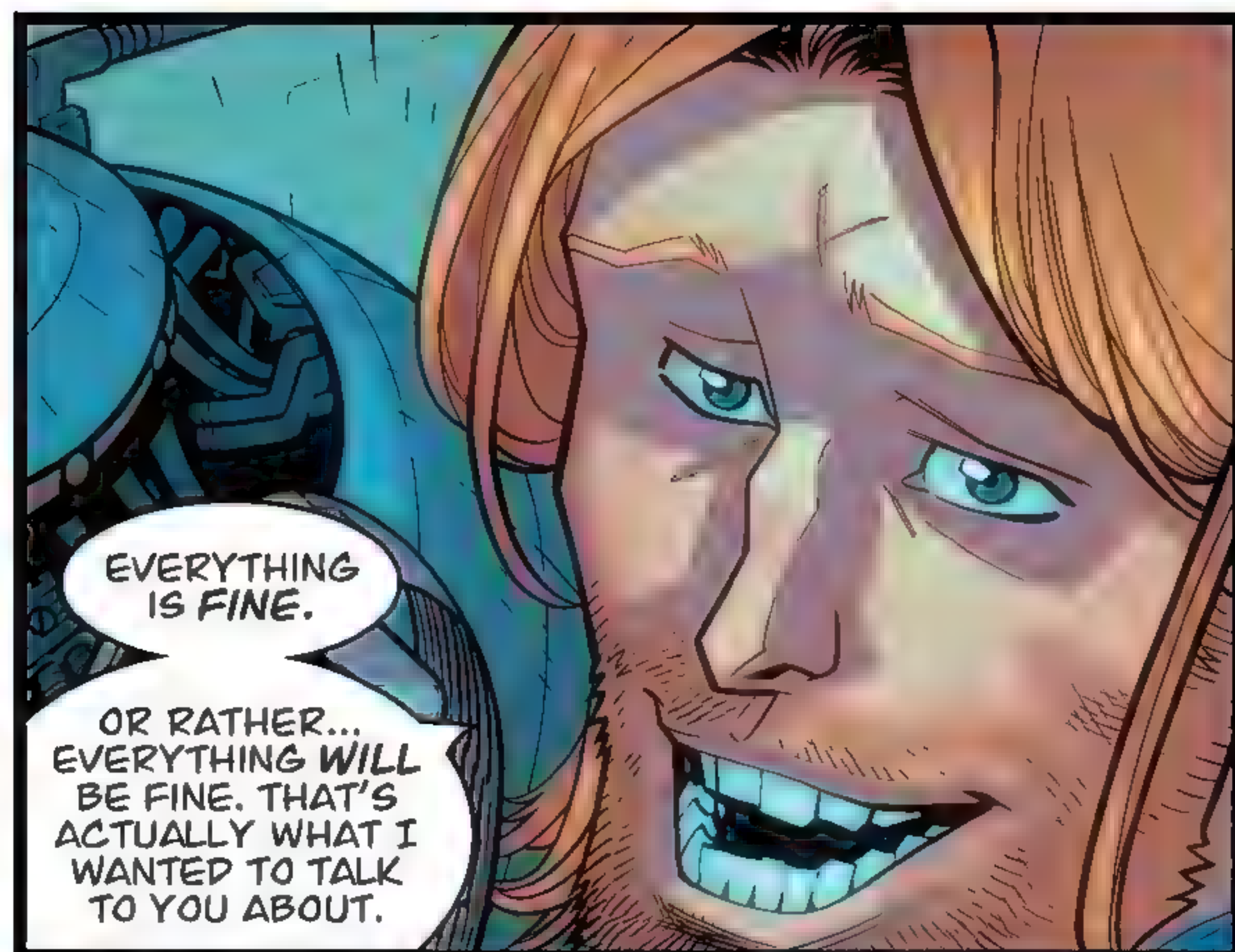














HOW WOULD
YOU EVEN GO
ABOUT THAT?

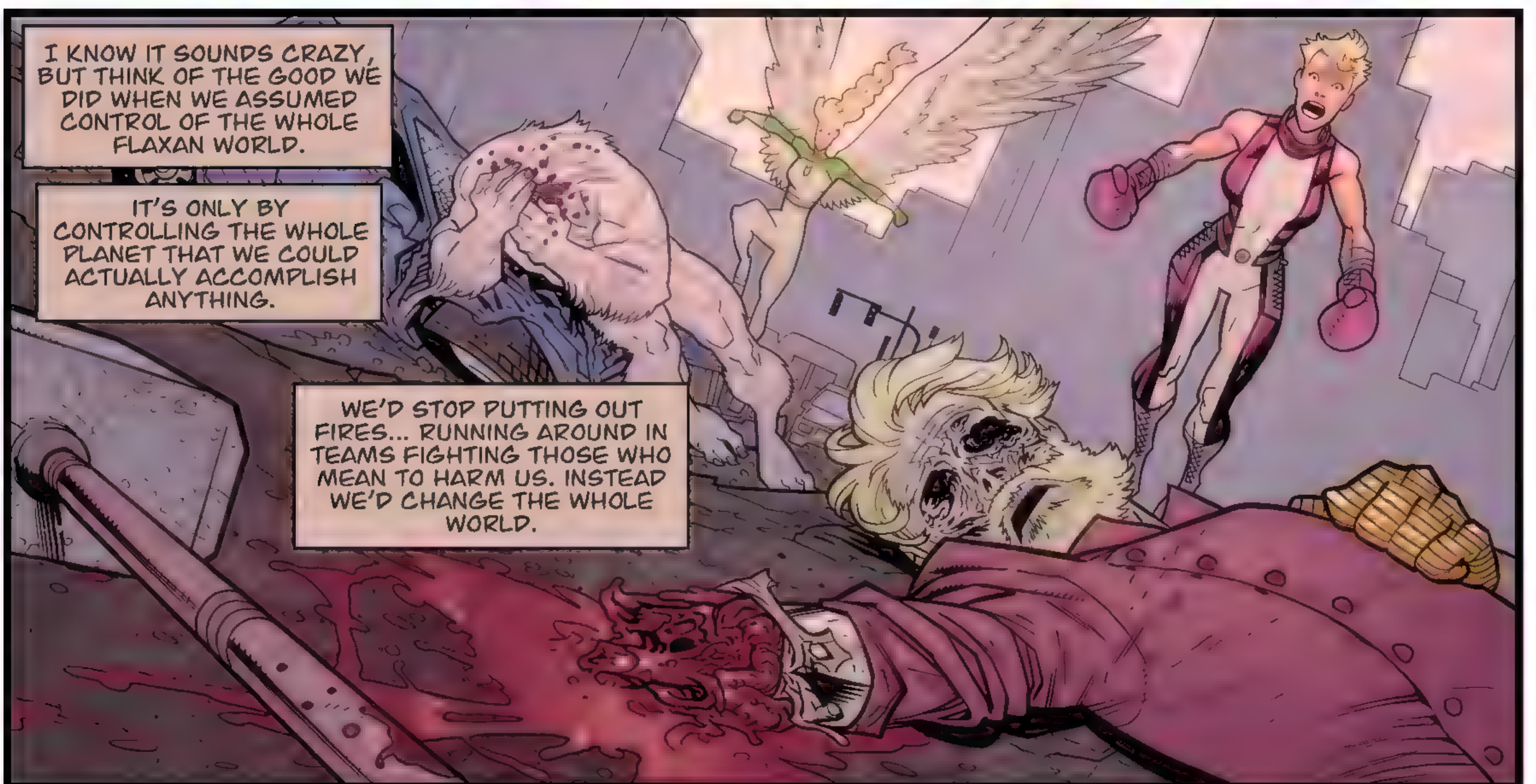
SAME WAY WE
DID THERE... BY
TAKING OVER.



OH, COME
ON, REX--



I'M SERIOUS.



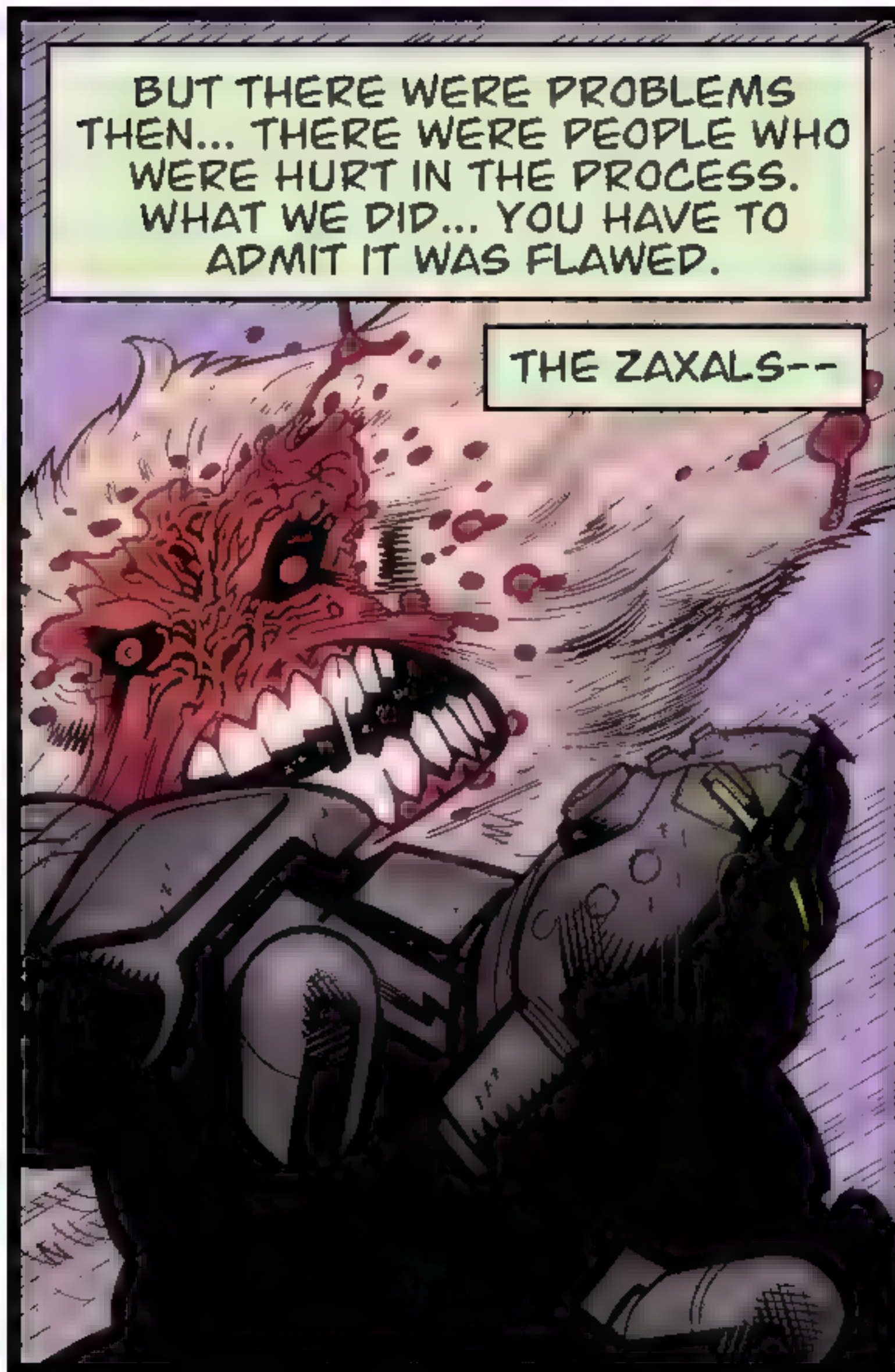
I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY,
BUT THINK OF THE GOOD WE
DID WHEN WE ASSUMED
CONTROL OF THE WHOLE
FLAXAN WORLD.

IT'S ONLY BY
CONTROLLING THE WHOLE
PLANET THAT WE COULD
ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISH
ANYTHING.

WE'D STOP PUTTING OUT
FIRES... RUNNING AROUND IN
TEAMS FIGHTING THOSE WHO
MEAN TO HARM US. INSTEAD
WE'D CHANGE THE WHOLE
WORLD.

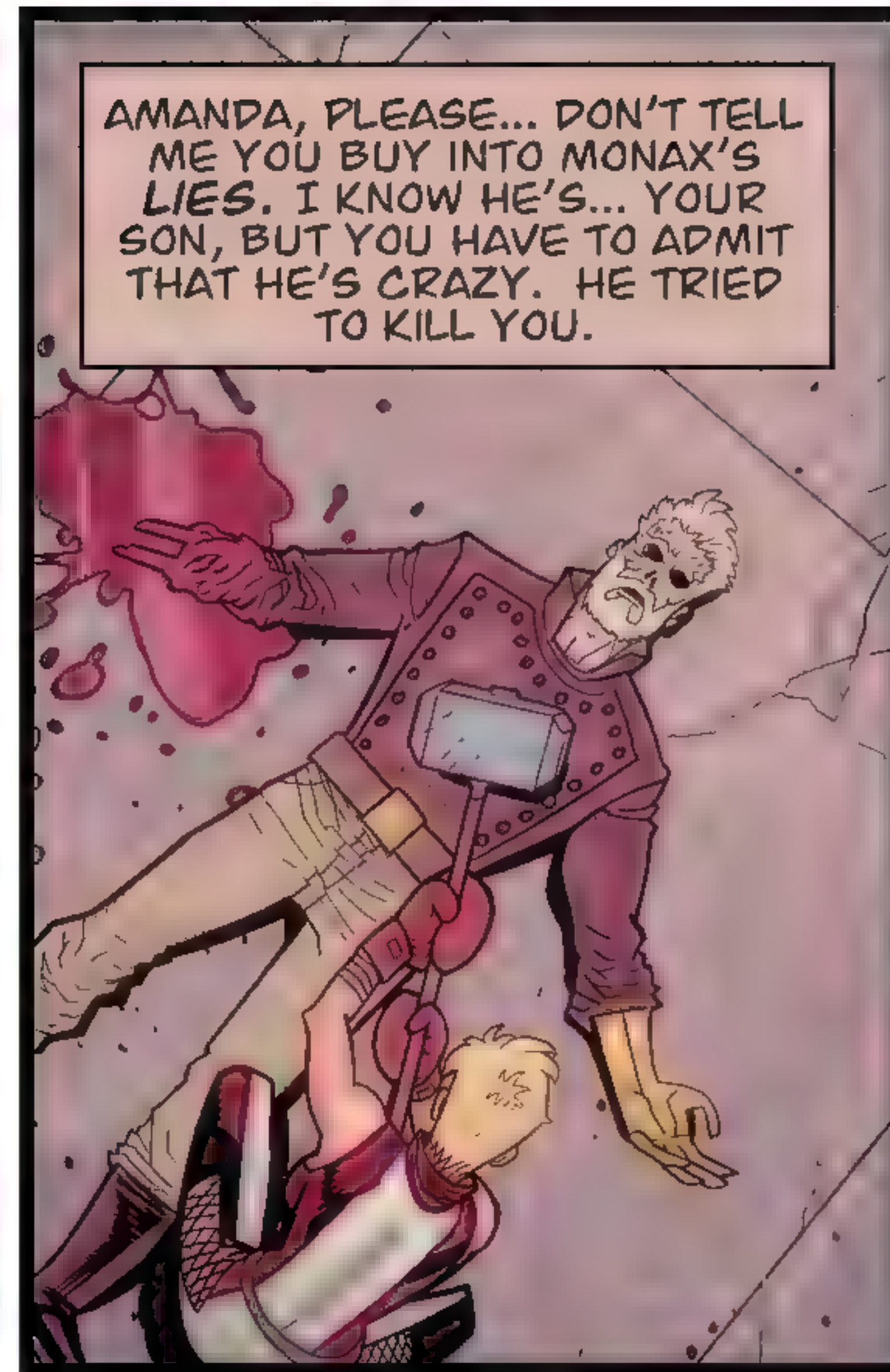


IT SOUNDS CRAZY
UNTIL YOU
ACKNOWLEDGE
THAT WE'VE DONE
IT BEFORE.

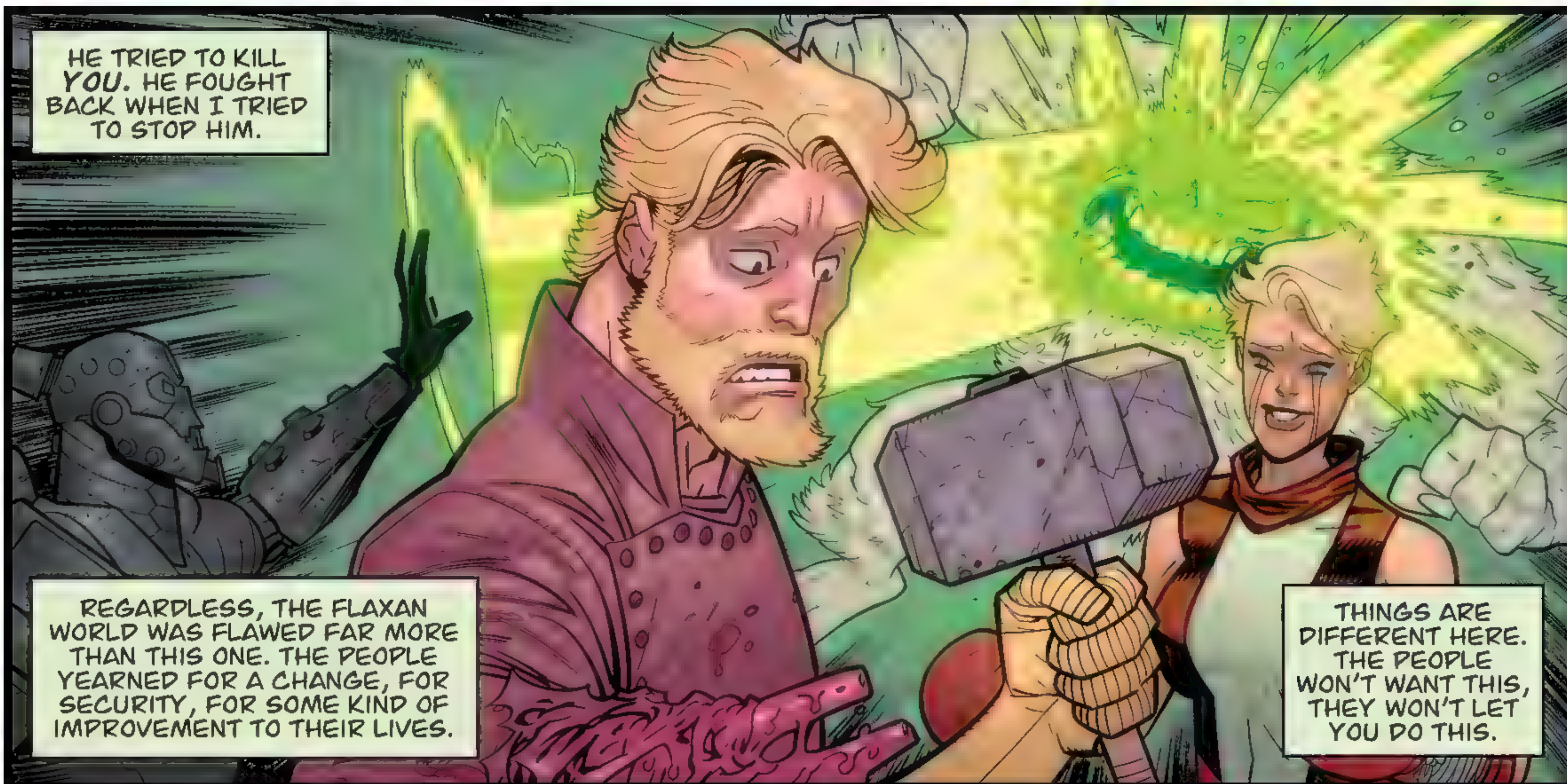


BUT THERE WERE PROBLEMS
THEN... THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO
WERE HURT IN THE PROCESS.
WHAT WE DID... YOU HAVE TO
ADMIT IT WAS FLAWED.

THE ZAXALS--



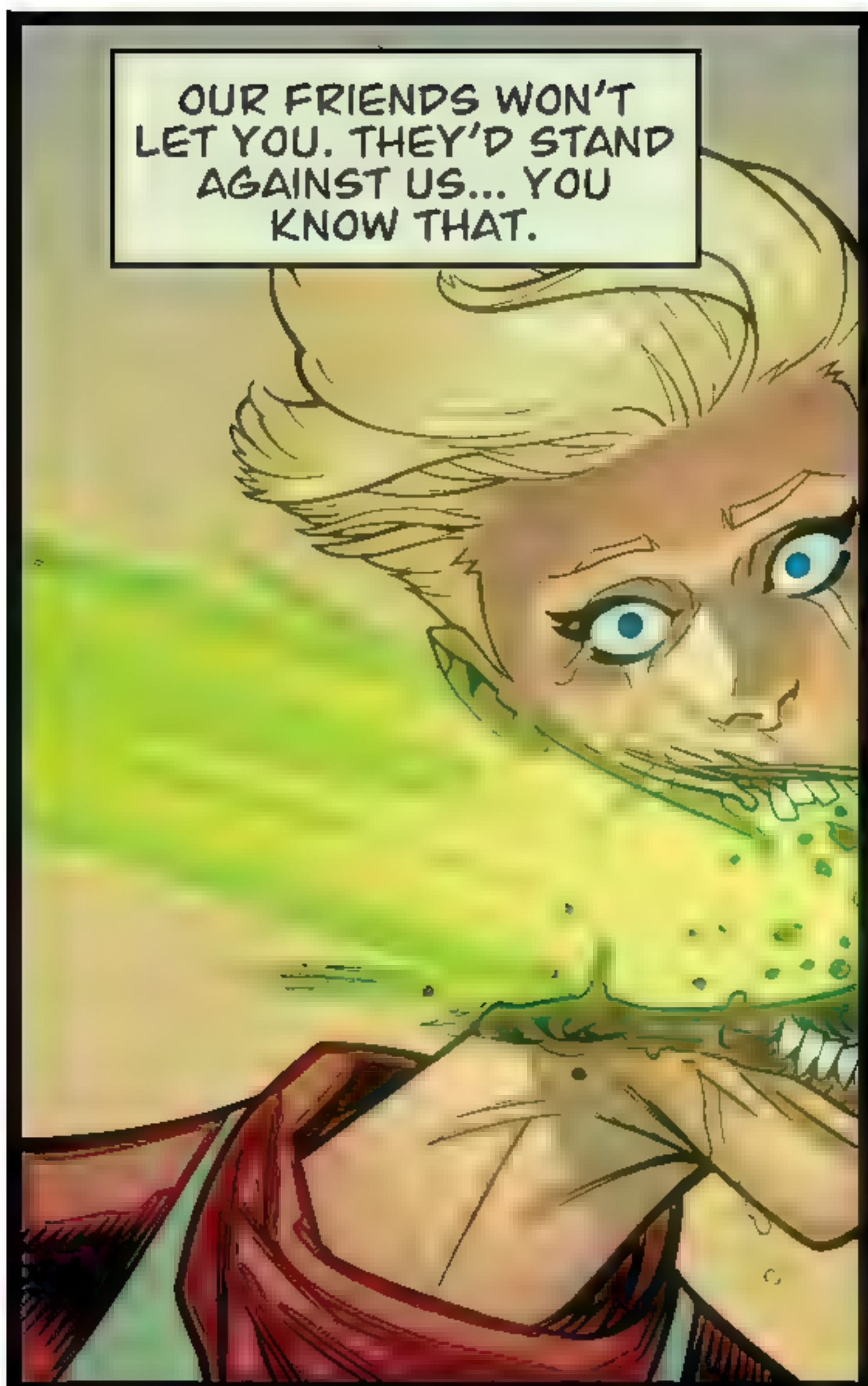
AMANDA, PLEASE... DON'T TELL
ME YOU BUY INTO MONAX'S
LIES. I KNOW HE'S... YOUR
SON, BUT YOU HAVE TO ADMIT
THAT HE'S CRAZY. HE TRIED
TO KILL YOU.



HE TRIED TO KILL
YOU. HE FOUGHT
BACK WHEN I TRIED
TO STOP HIM.

REGARDLESS, THE FLAXAN
WORLD WAS FLAWED FAR MORE
THAN THIS ONE. THE PEOPLE
YEARNED FOR A CHANGE, FOR
SECURITY, FOR SOME KIND OF
IMPROVEMENT TO THEIR LIVES.

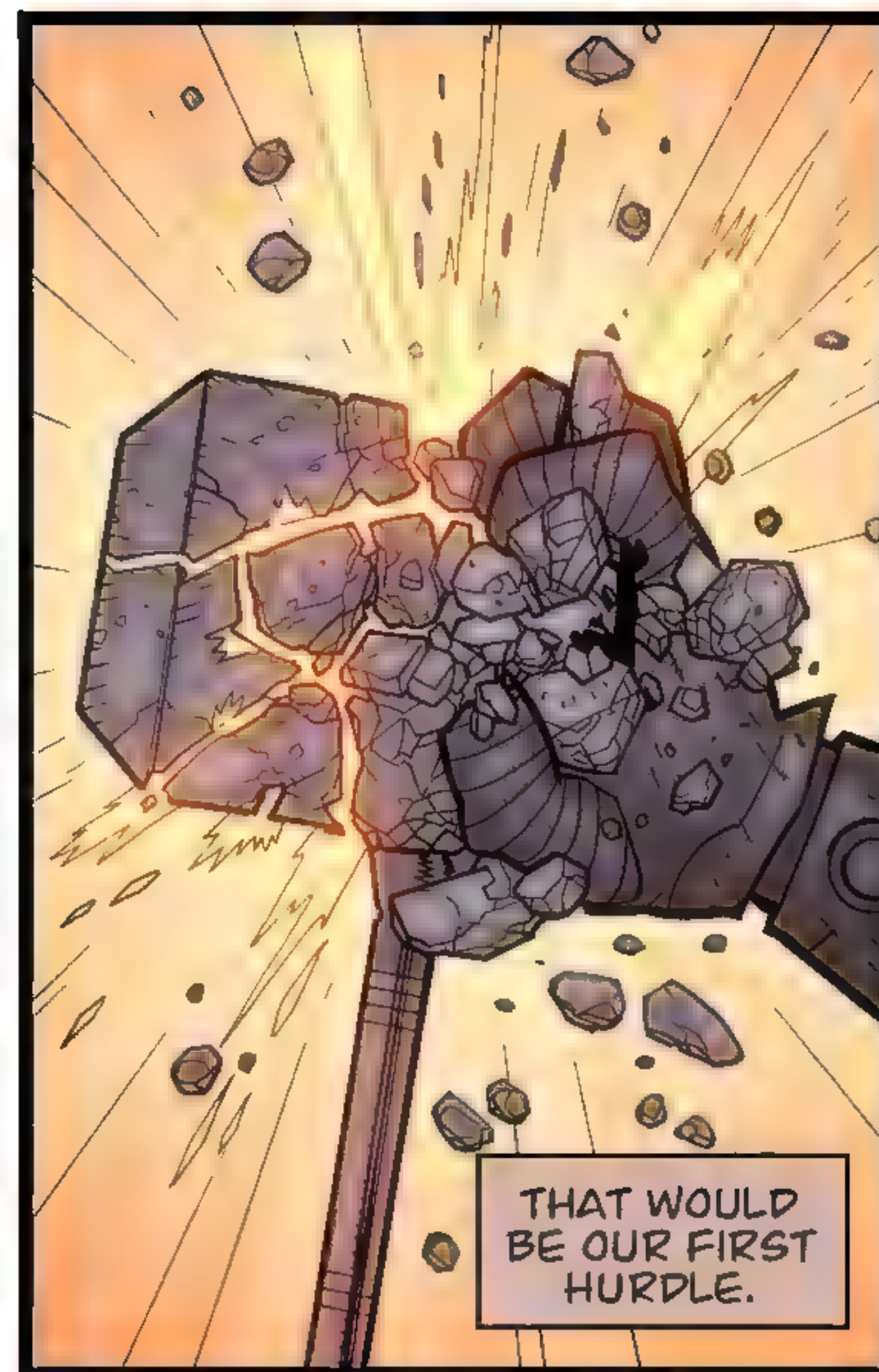
THINGS ARE
DIFFERENT HERE.
THE PEOPLE
WON'T WANT THIS,
THEY WON'T LET
YOU DO THIS.



OUR FRIENDS WON'T
LET YOU. THEY'D STAND
AGAINST US... YOU
KNOW THAT.



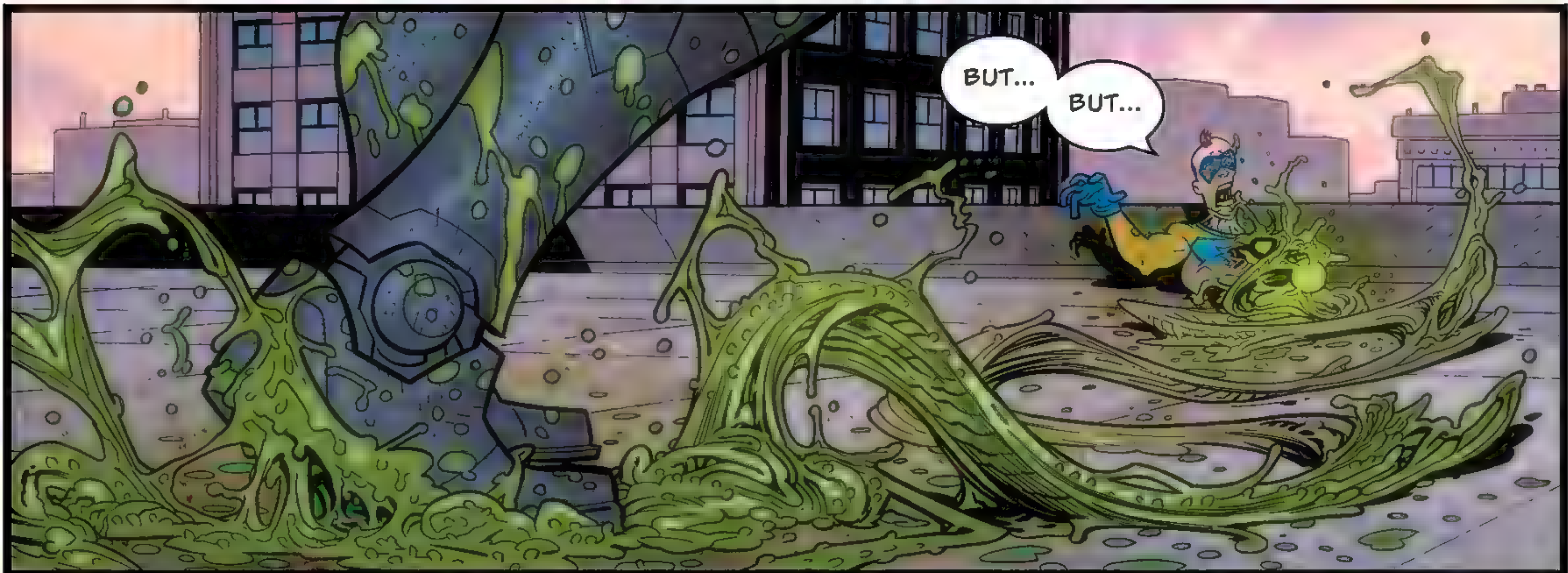
I'M AWARE
OF THAT, YES.

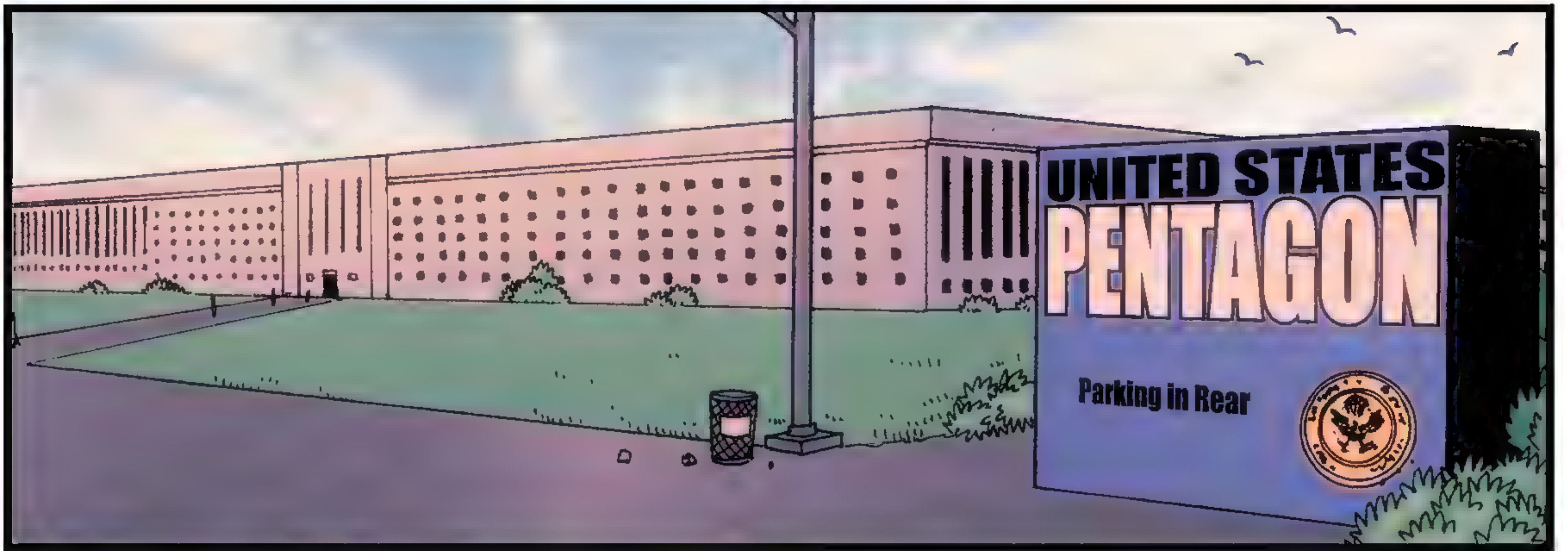


THAT WOULD
BE OUR FIRST
HURDLE.

ANYTHING THAT COULD
POTENTIALLY STAND IN
OUR WAY WOULD NEED TO
BE DEALT WITH FIRST.







EVEN THOUGH I WAS ABLE TO INCORPORATE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF D.A. SINCLAIR'S REANIMEN TECHNOLOGY IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF MY NEW DRONES--

--I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THIS BARRAGE FOR LONG.

WRAK OOM!

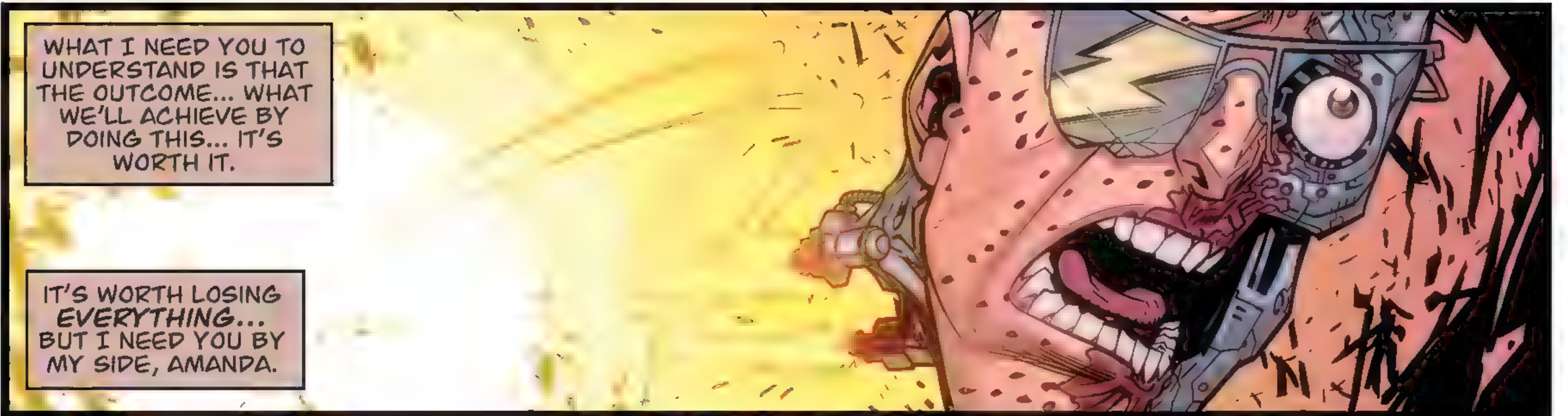


LUCKILY, I WAS ALSO ABLE TO INCORPORATE TECHNOLOGY FROM THE BOMB THAT VAPORIZED LAS VEGAS.

OH, DEAR.

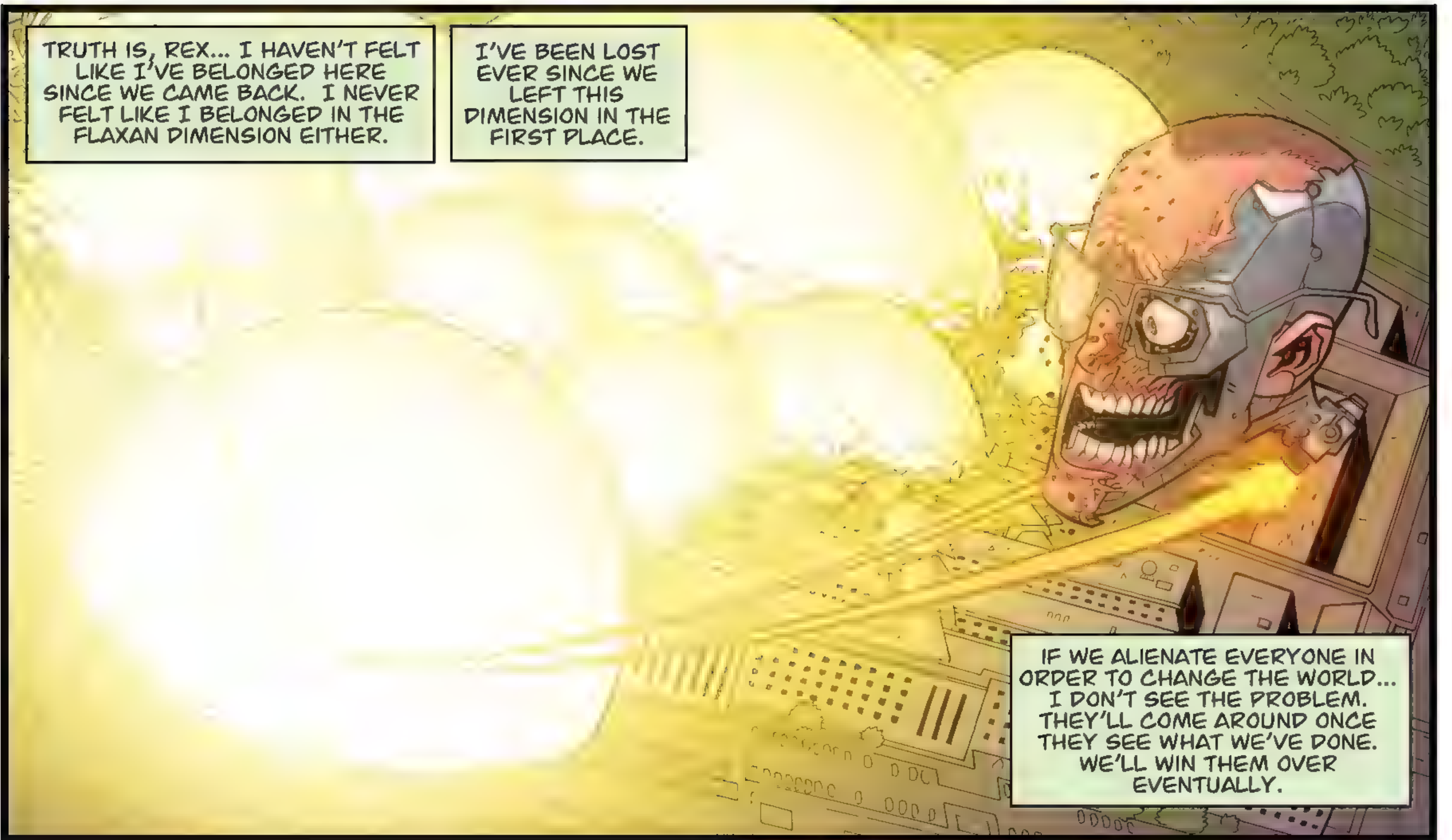


WHAT I AM PROPOSING
WOULD PUT US AT ODDS
WITH OUR CLOSEST
FRIENDS AND ALLIES.



WHAT I NEED YOU TO
UNDERSTAND IS THAT
THE OUTCOME... WHAT
WE'LL ACHIEVE BY
DOING THIS... IT'S
WORTH IT.

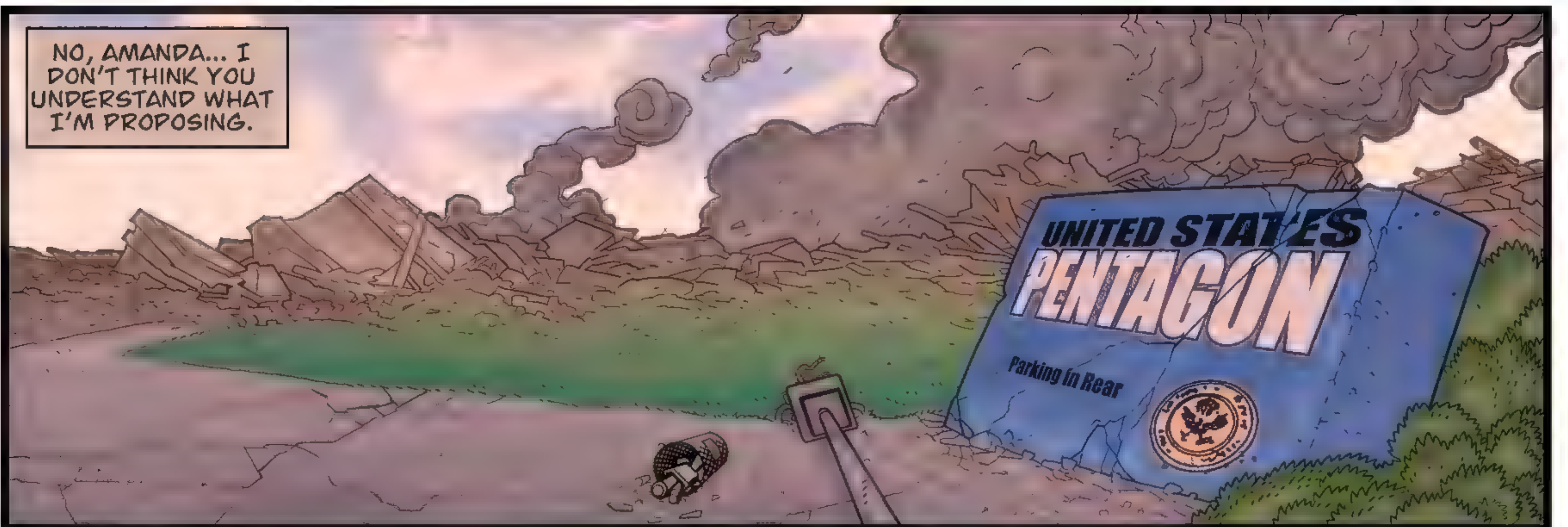
IT'S WORTH LOSING
EVERYTHING...
BUT I NEED YOU BY
MY SIDE, AMANDA.



TRUTH IS, REX... I HAVEN'T FELT
LIKE I'VE BELONGED HERE
SINCE WE CAME BACK. I NEVER
FELT LIKE I BELONGED IN THE
FLAXAN DIMENSION EITHER.

I'VE BEEN LOST
EVER SINCE WE
LEFT THIS
DIMENSION IN THE
FIRST PLACE.

IF WE ALIENATE EVERYONE IN
ORDER TO CHANGE THE WORLD...
I DON'T SEE THE PROBLEM.
THEY'LL COME AROUND ONCE
THEY SEE WHAT WE'VE DONE.
WE'LL WIN THEM OVER
EVENTUALLY.



NO, AMANDA... I
DON'T THINK YOU
UNDERSTAND WHAT
I'M PROPOSING.







MONAX... HE TOLD
ME WHAT YOU
ARE... AND I
DIDN'T BELIEVE
HIM.

YOU DID HUNT DOWN
AND KILL THE ZAXALS,
DIDN'T YOU? YOU
ARE A...



MONSTER?

THAT'S
WHAT HE SAID,
DIDN'T HE? I
KILLED THE ZAXALS,
THE ONE YOU MATED
WITH... ALL THE
OTHERS I COULD
FIND... I TRIED TO KILL
YOUR BABY, BEFORE
HE GREW INTO
MONAX.

SO YES, I KNEW
HOW DEEPLY YOU HAD
BETRAYED ME, THAT
YOU'D FATHERED A
CHILD. I FORGAVE YOU...
AND I TRIED TO ERASE IT.
THINKING BACK, I WAS
ALWAYS CAPABLE OF
DOING WHAT NEEDED TO
BE DONE, NO MATTER
HOW UGLY.

AM I A
MONSTER?
MAYBE I
ALWAYS WAS...
BENEATH THE
SURFACE.

WHO KNEW
WE HAD
SO MUCH IN
COMMON?



WHY,
REX?!

WHY?!

I
LOVED
YOU!

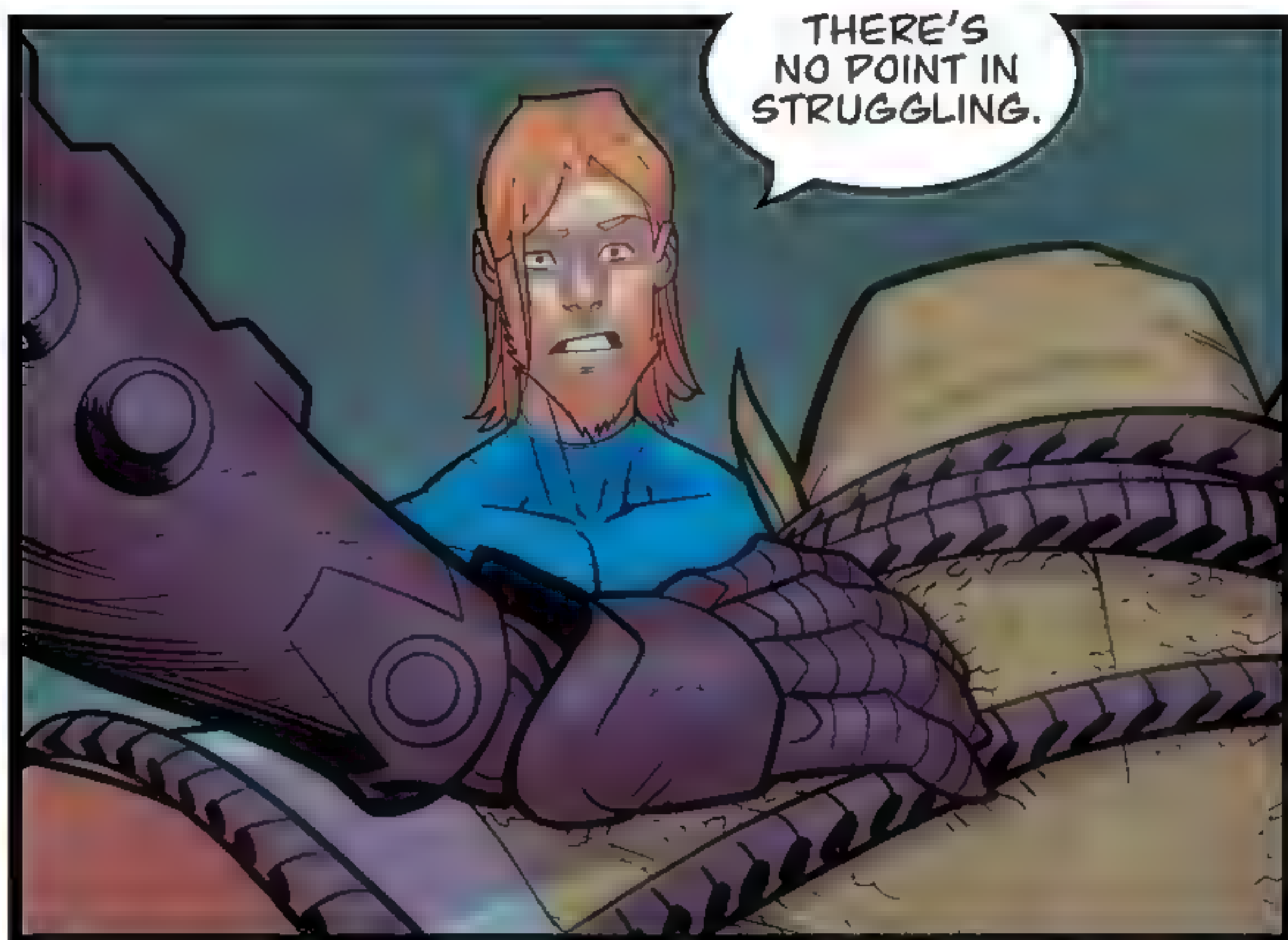
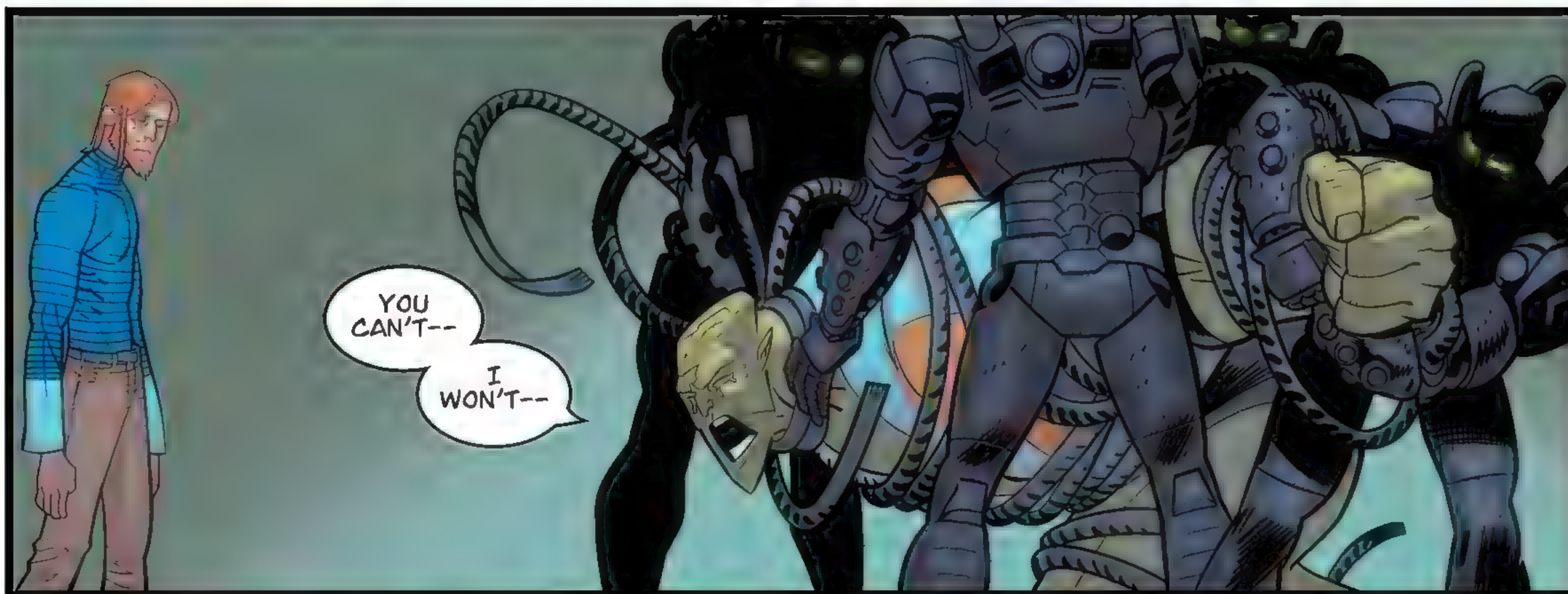


"LOVED?"

YOU'RE
REALLY NOT
GOING TO
HELP ME...

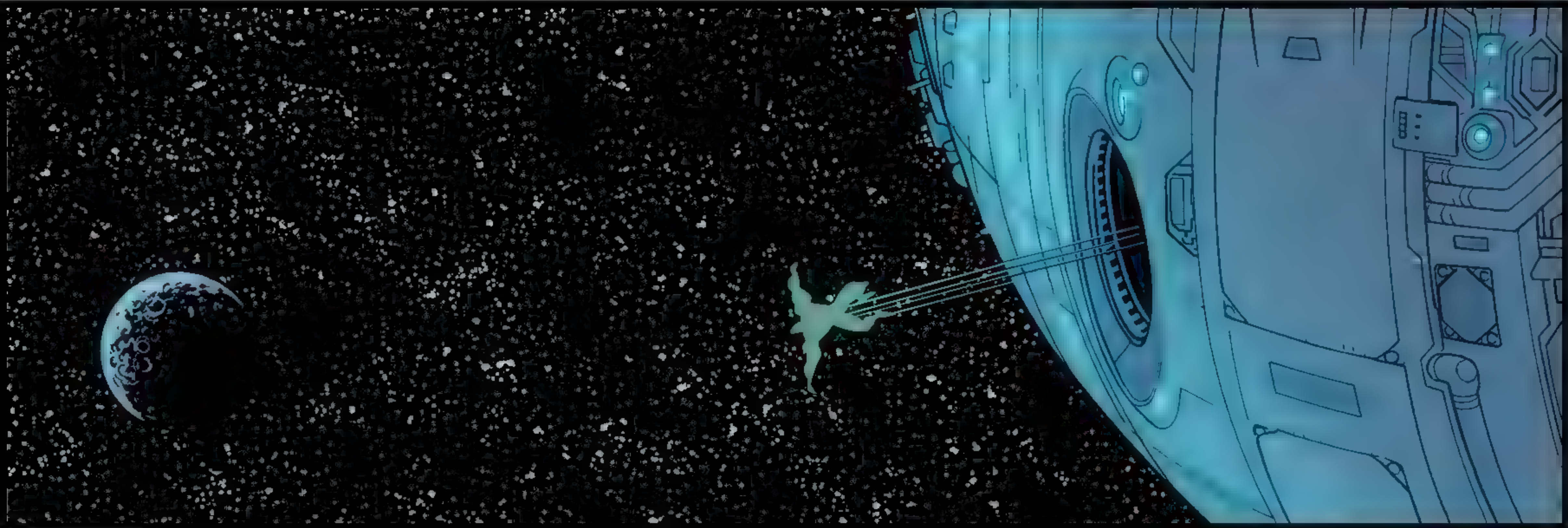
WHAT AN IDIOT
I'VE BEEN. I
NEVER CONSIDERED
WHAT THIS WOULD
DO TO US.

I DIDN'T
THINK IT
WOULD COME
TO THIS.

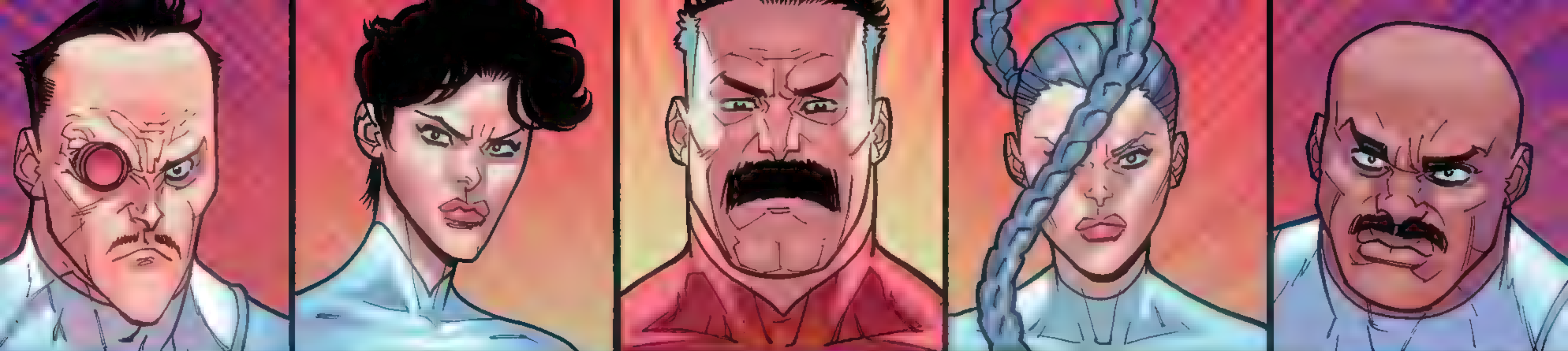






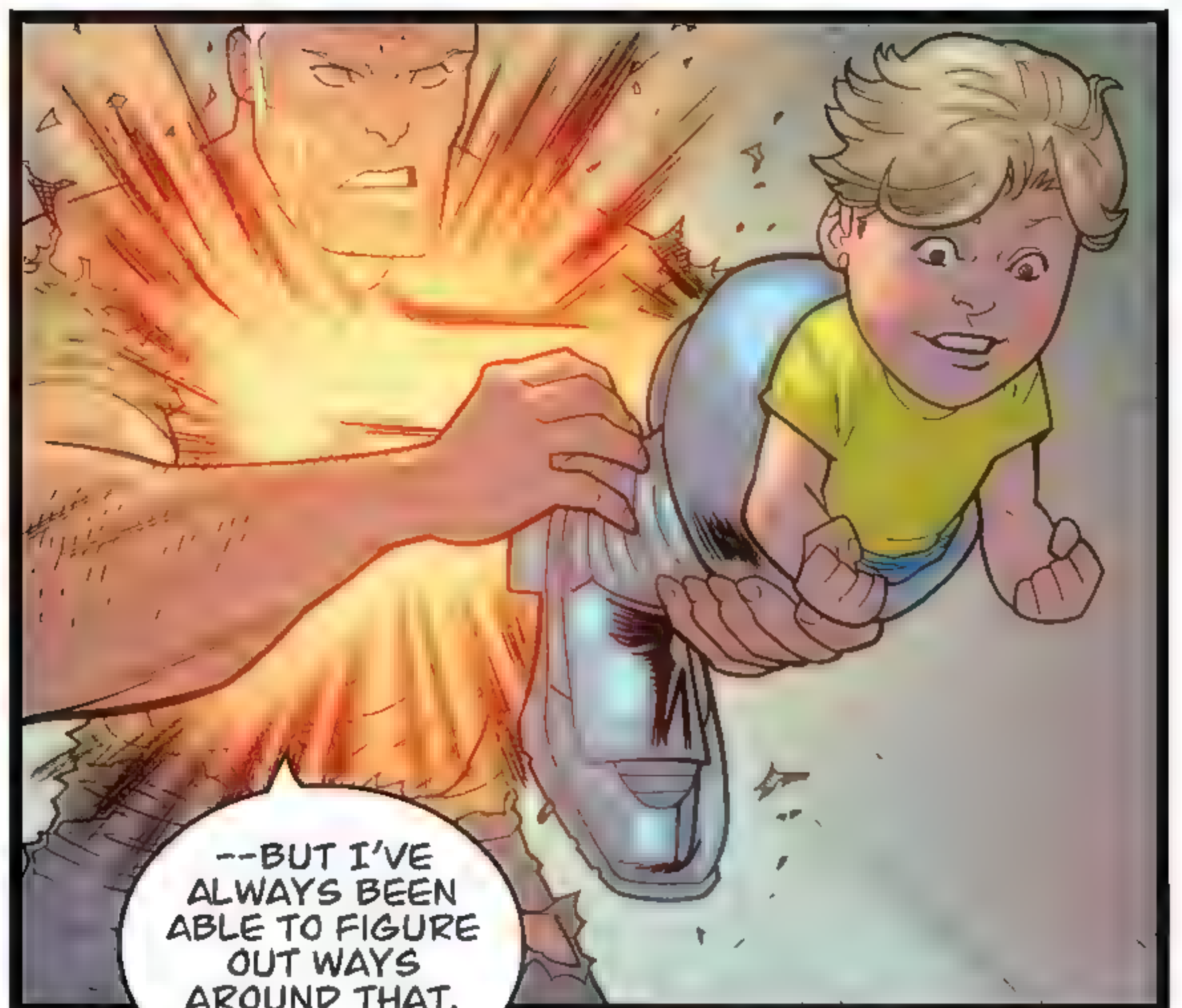
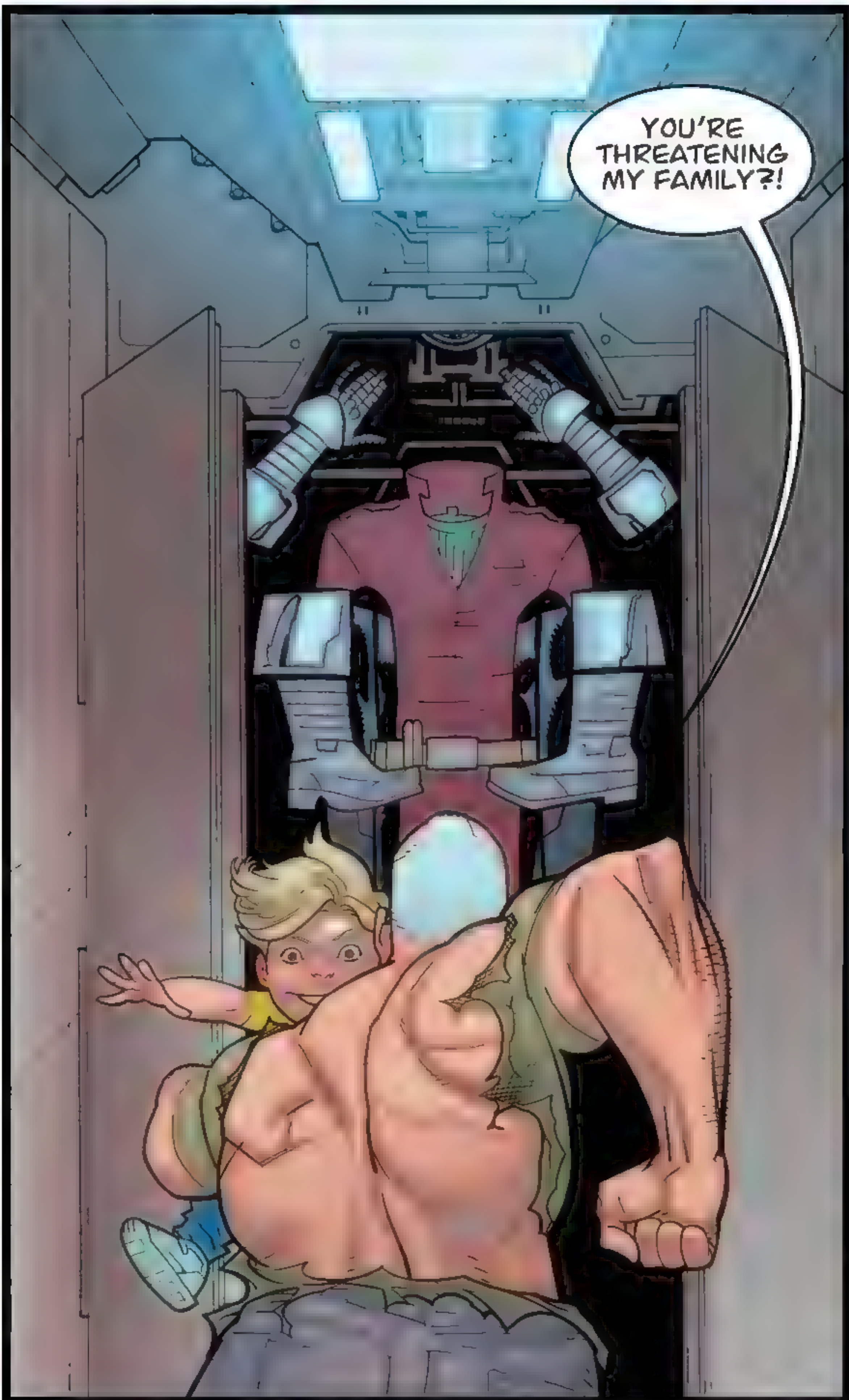
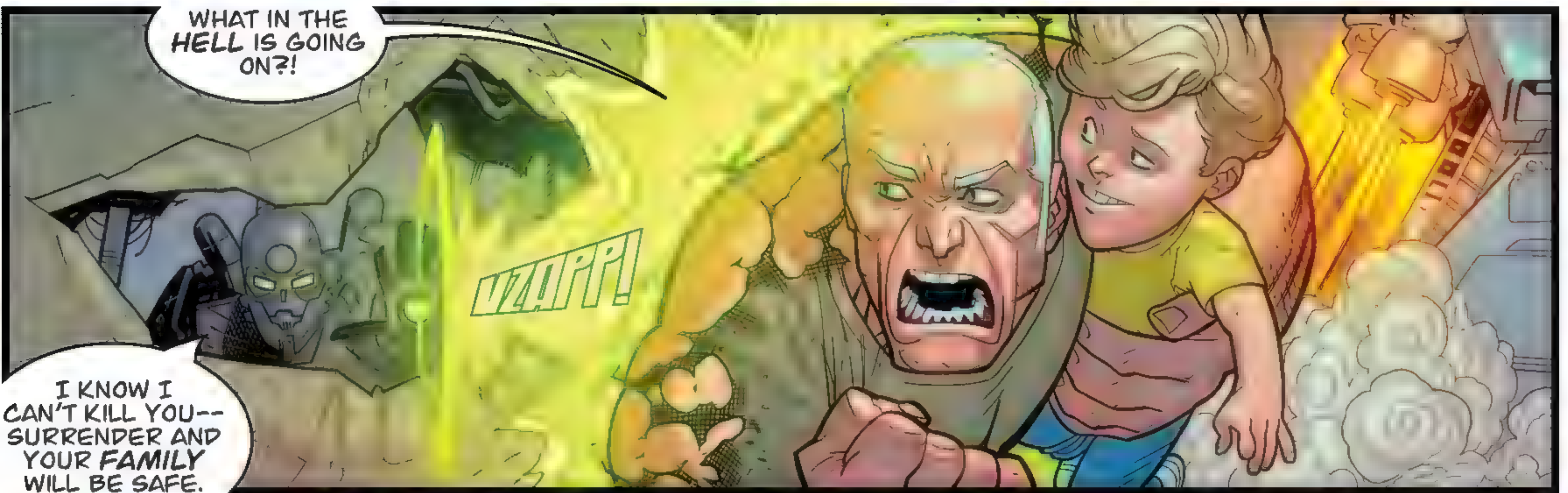


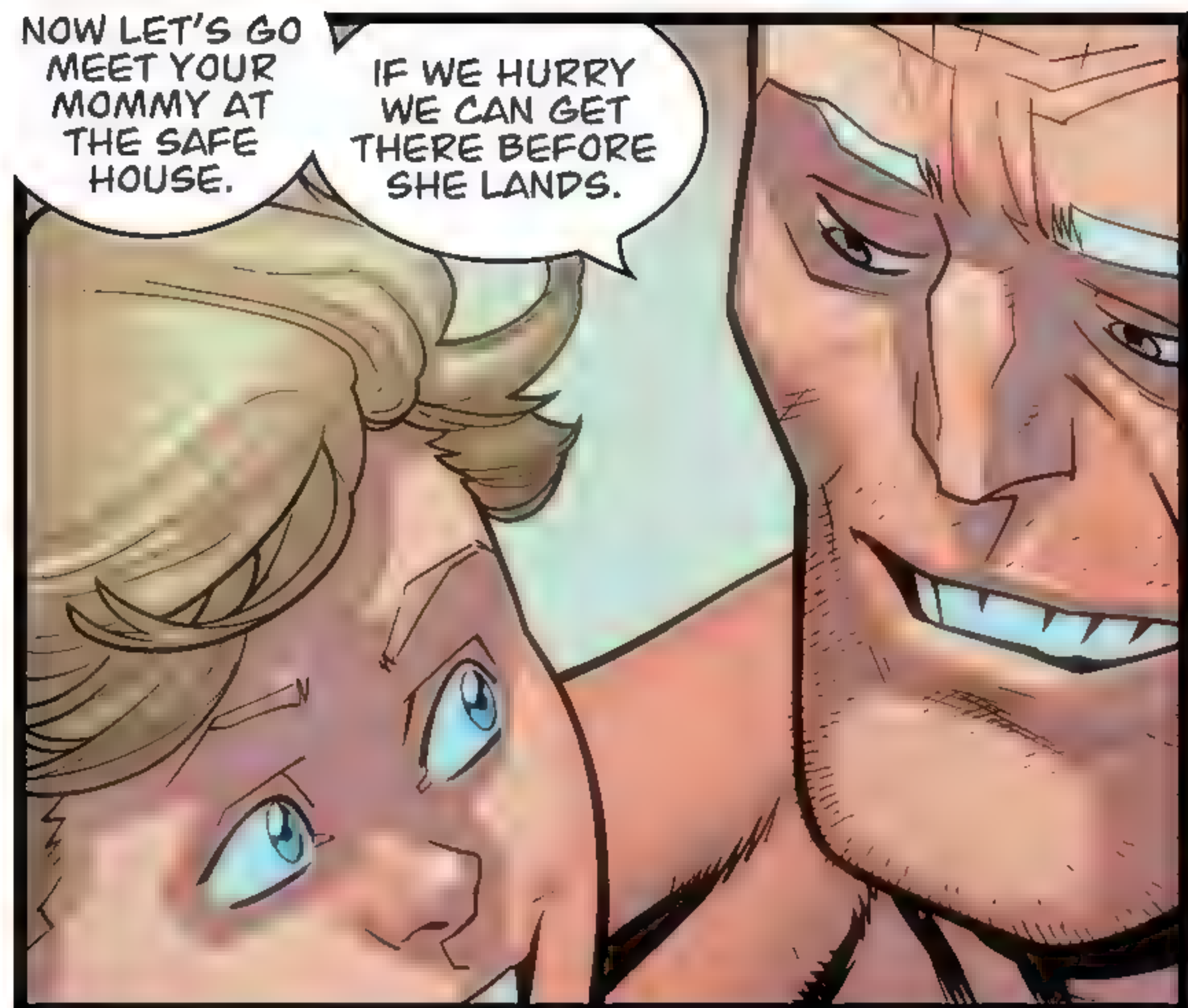
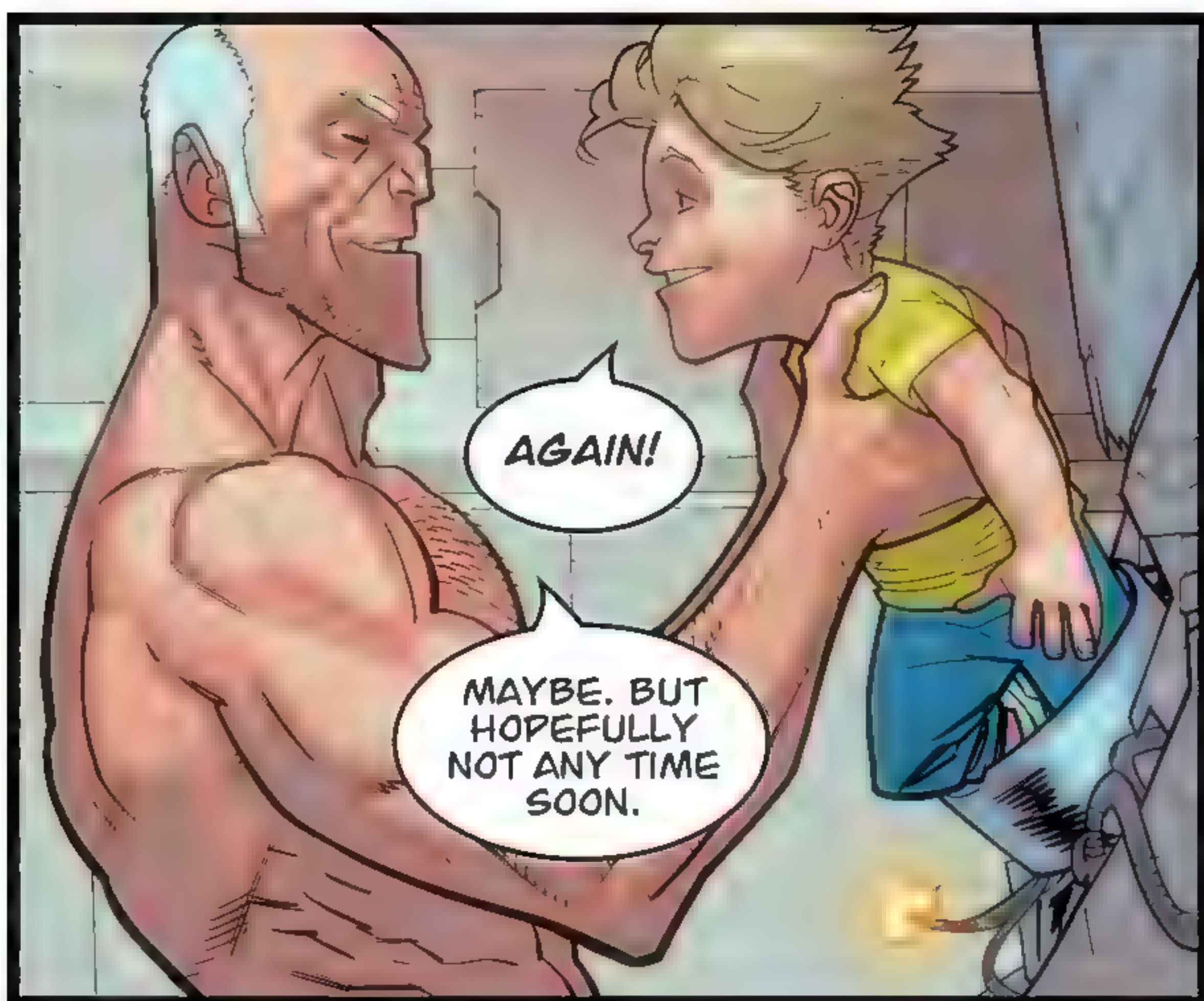
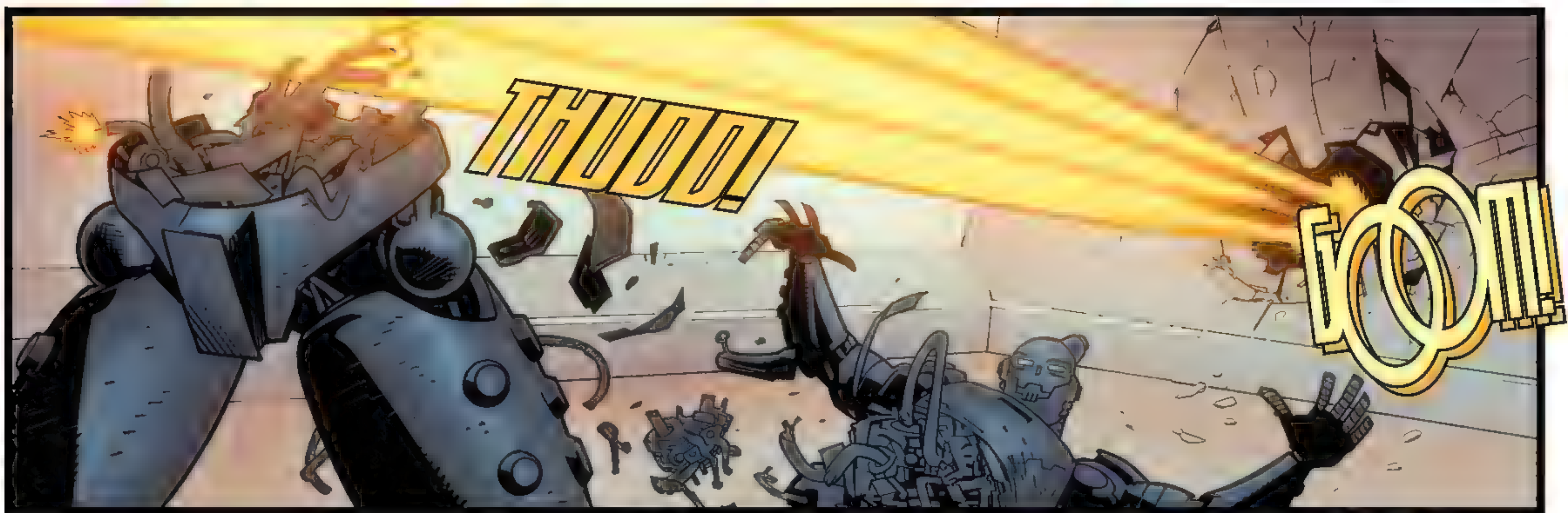




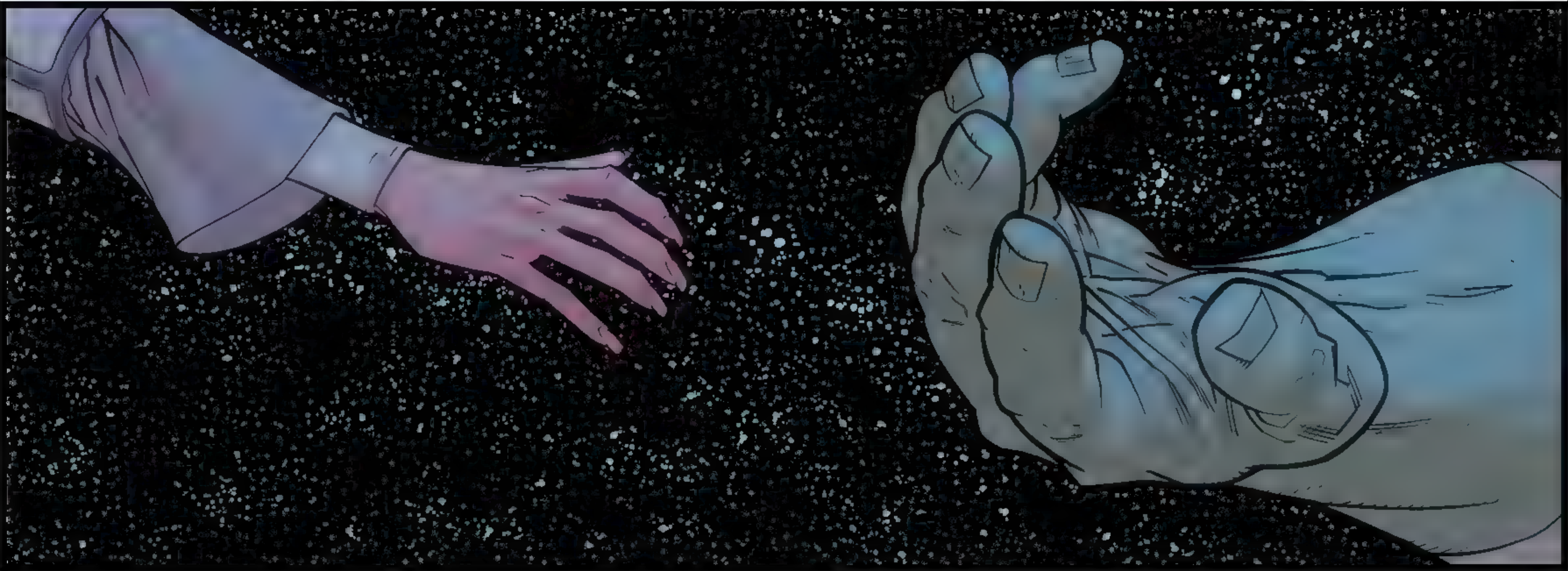
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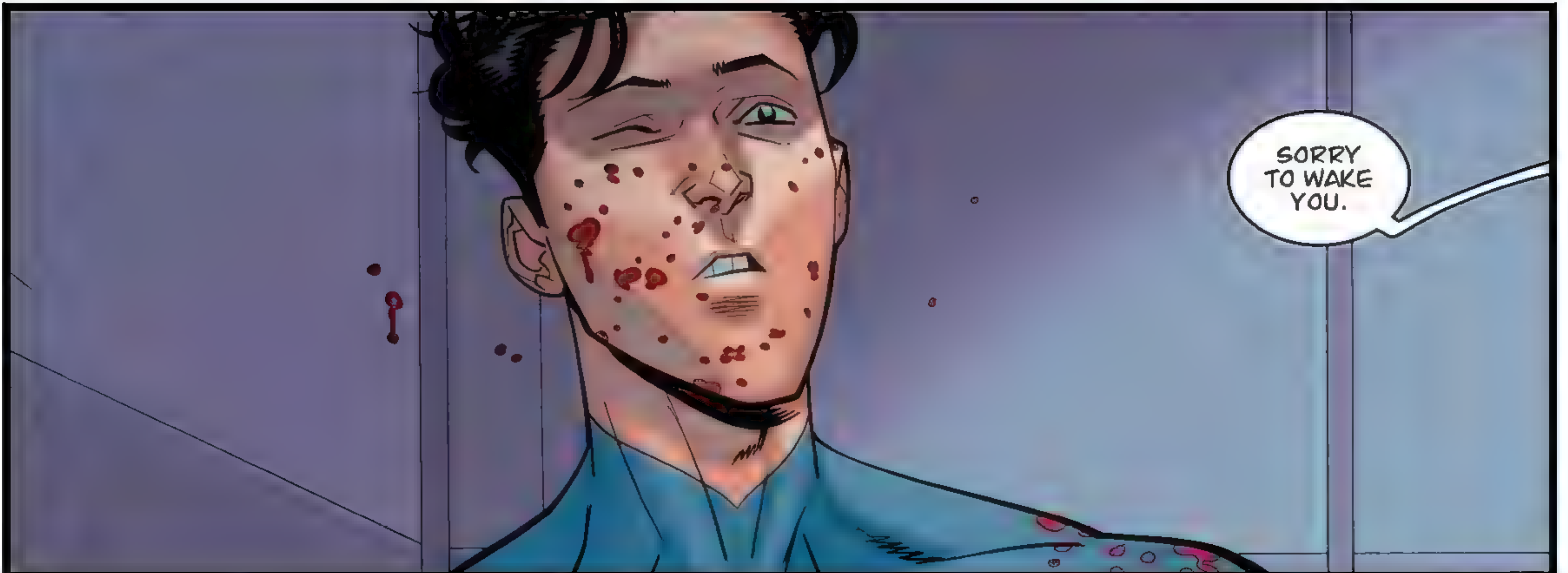
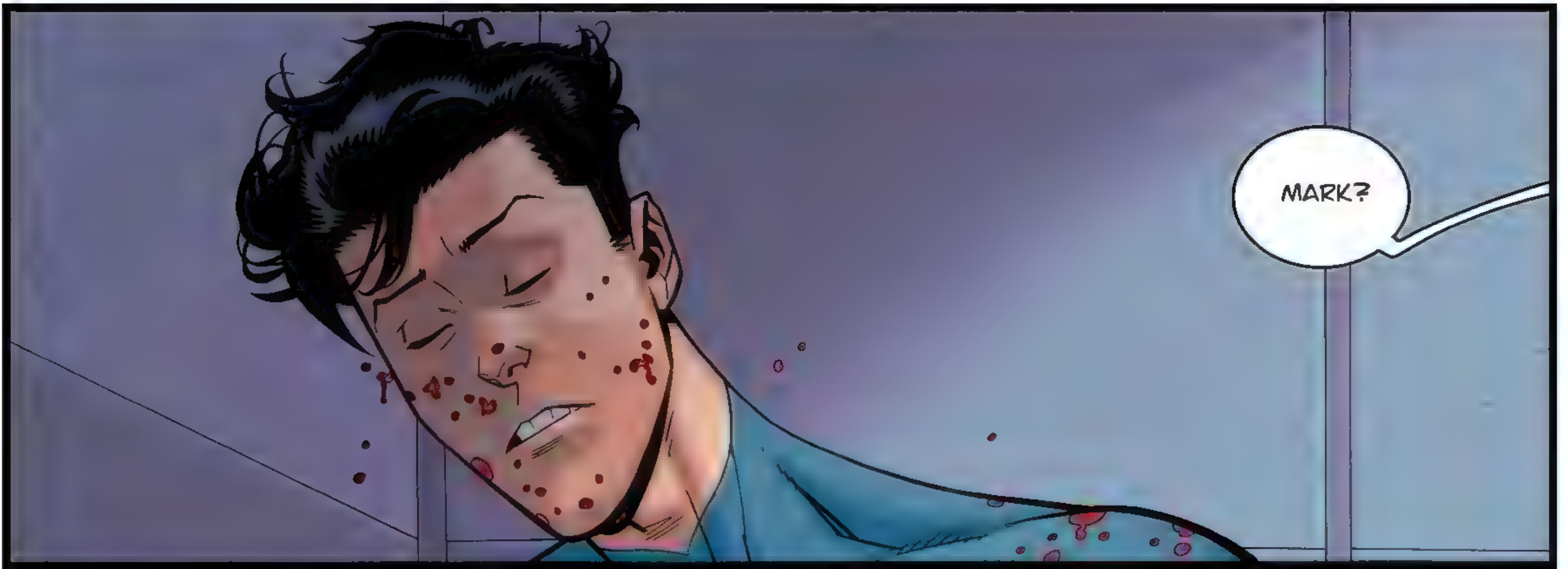






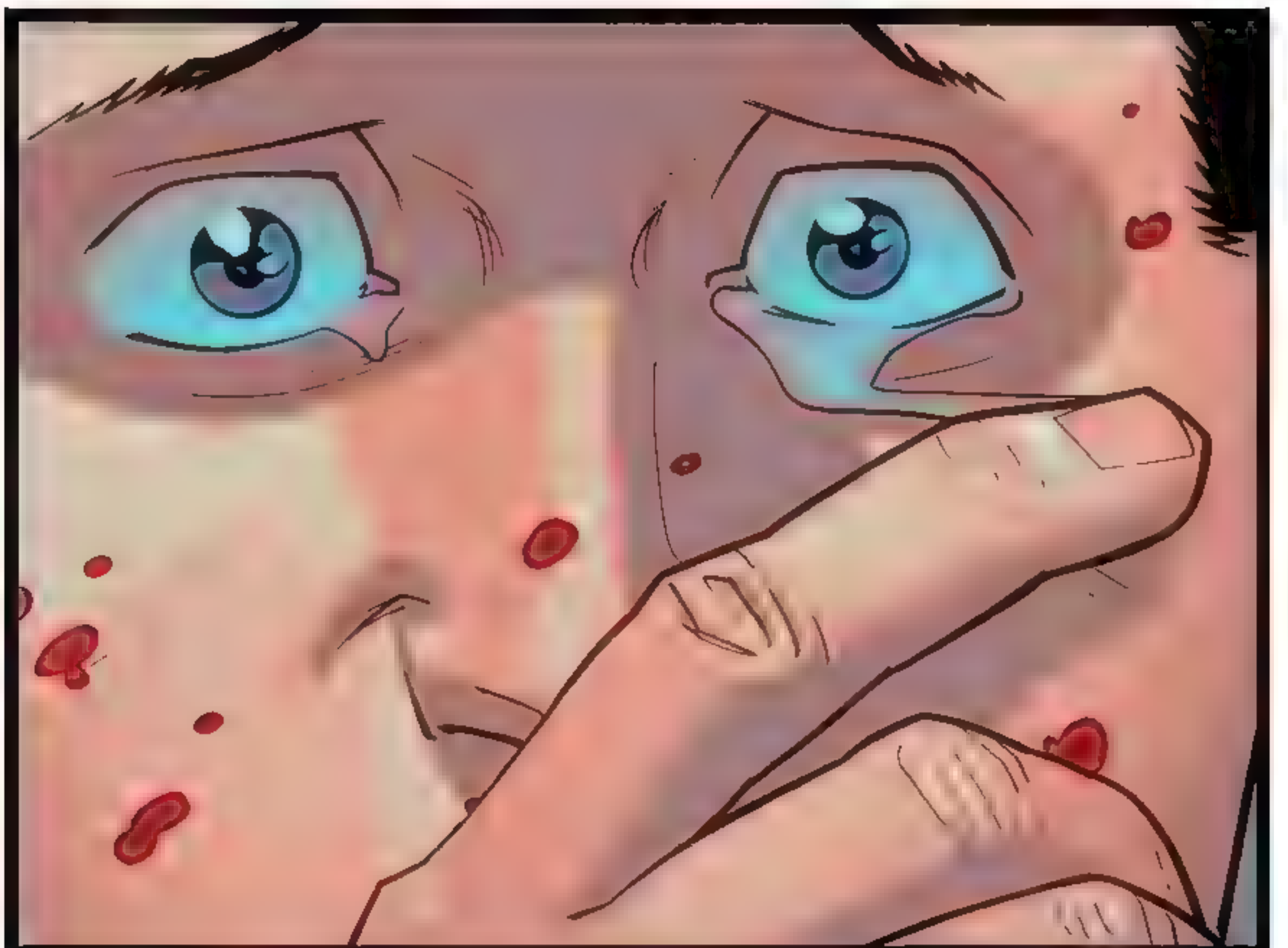
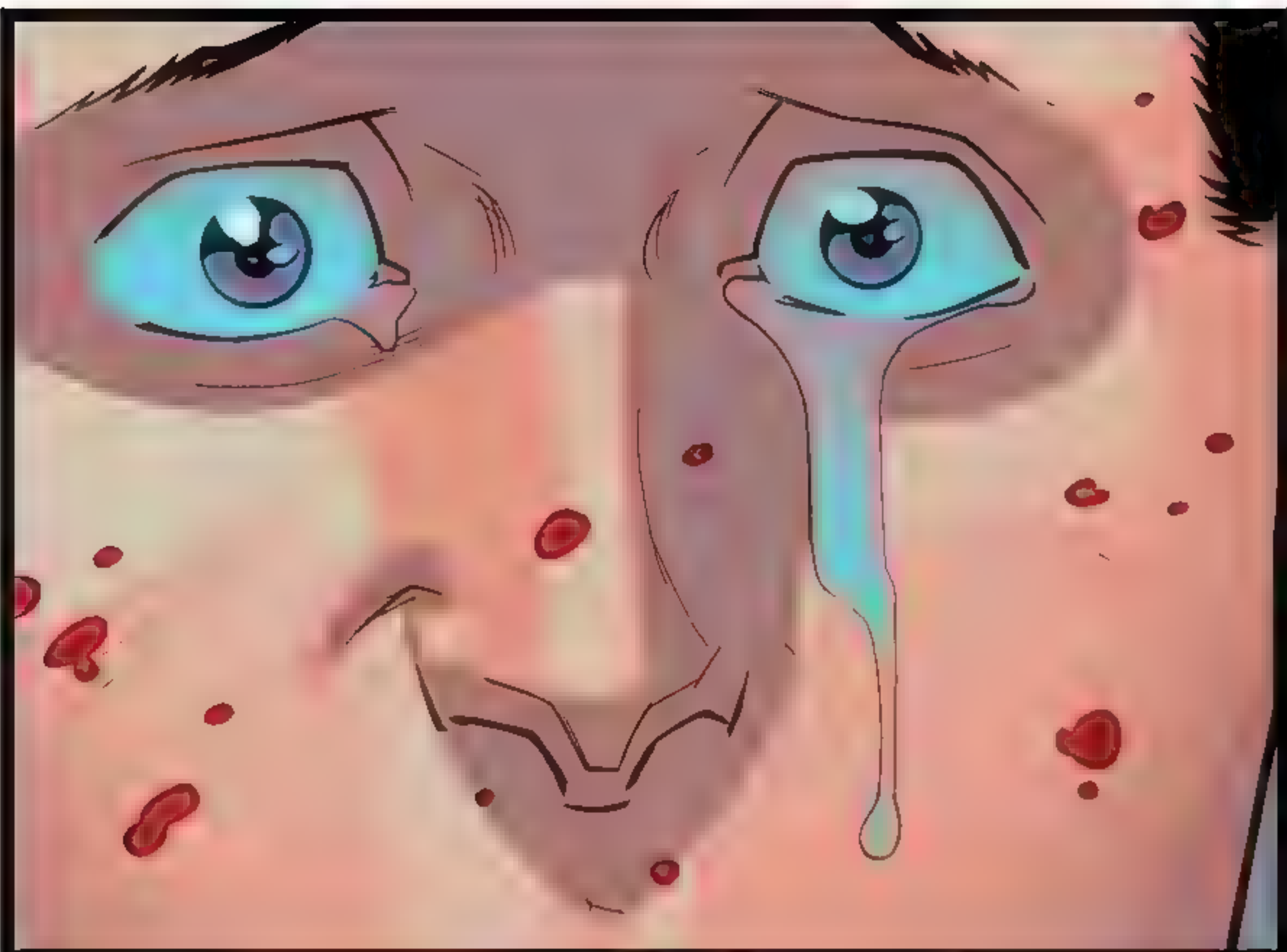
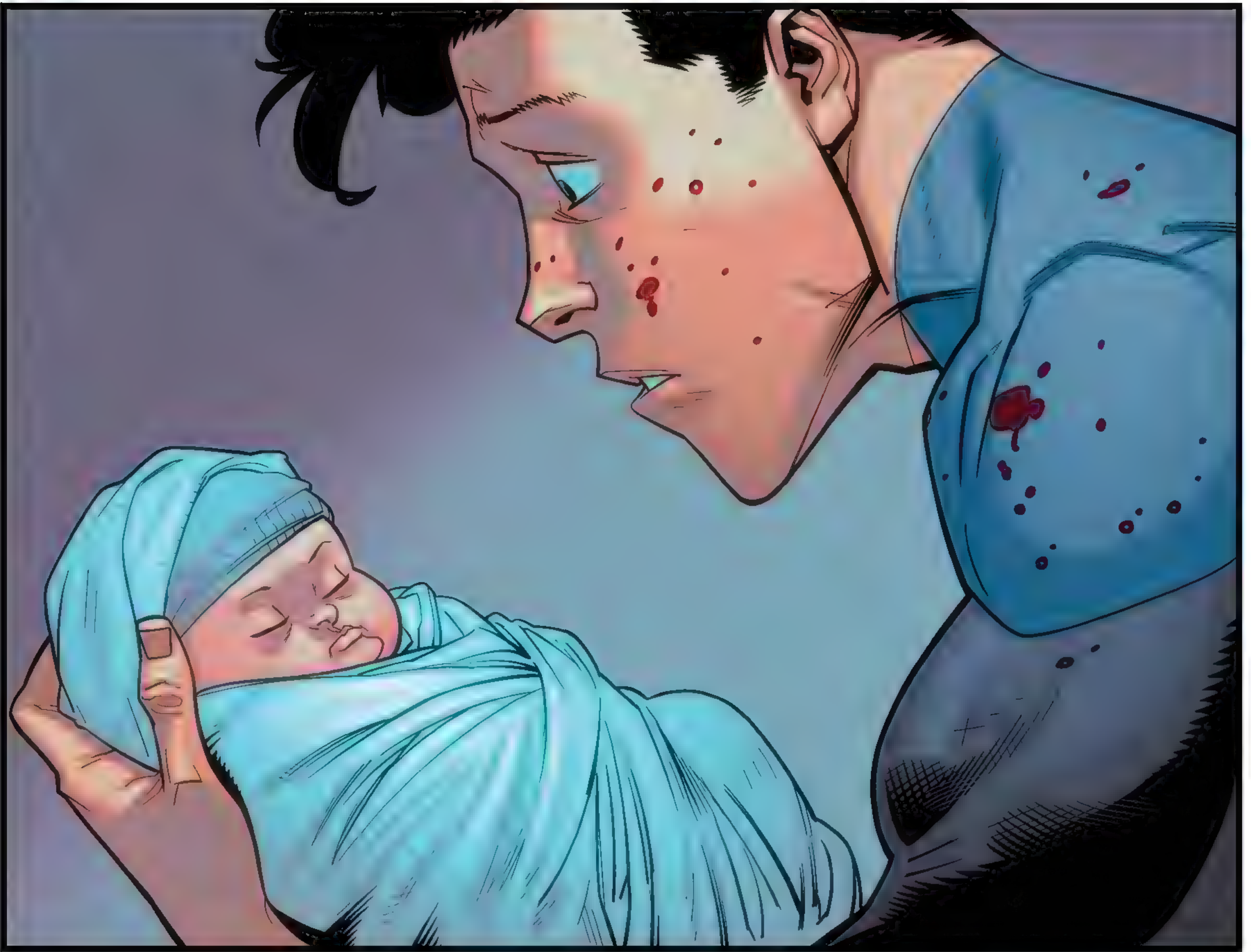


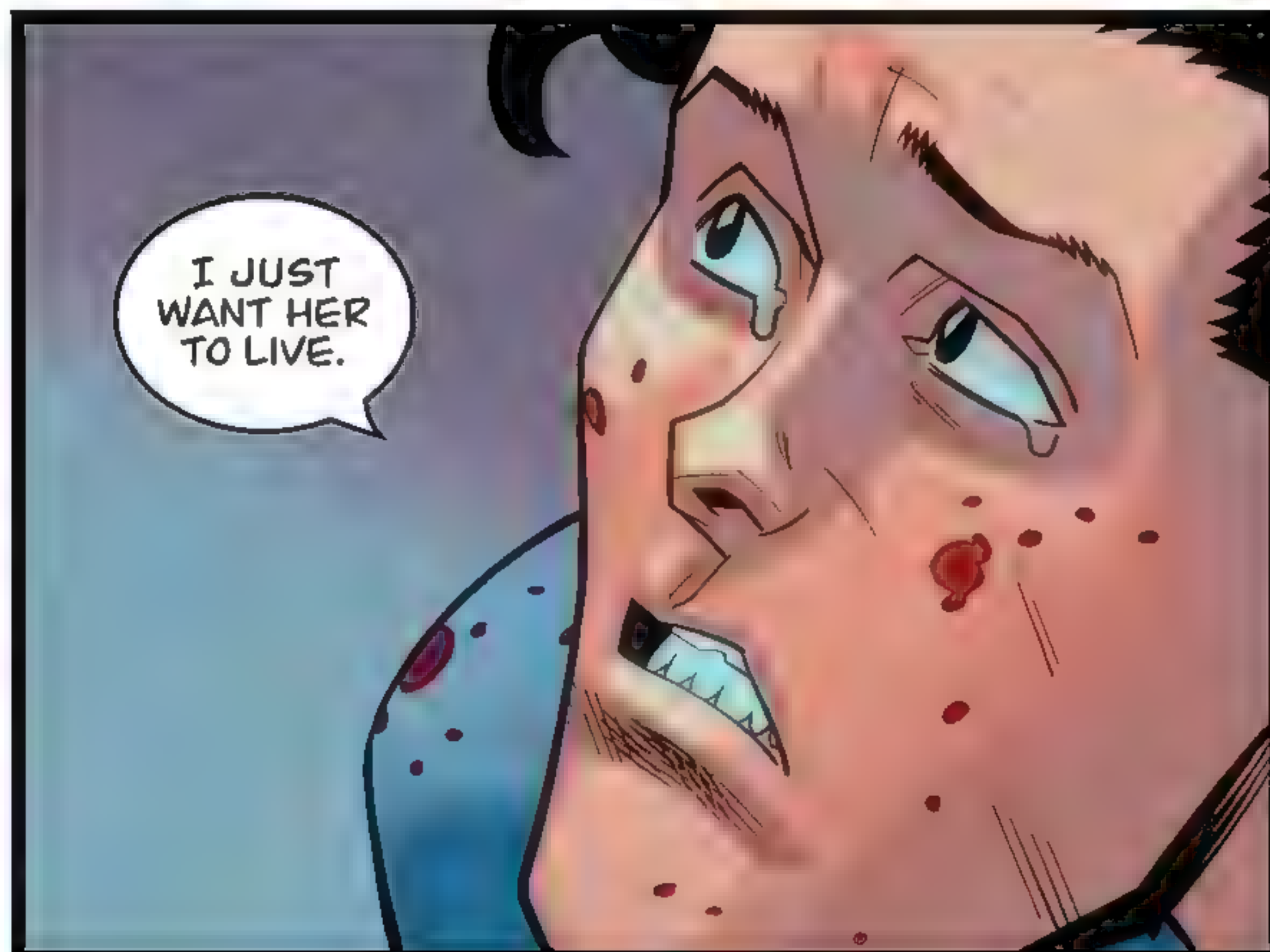
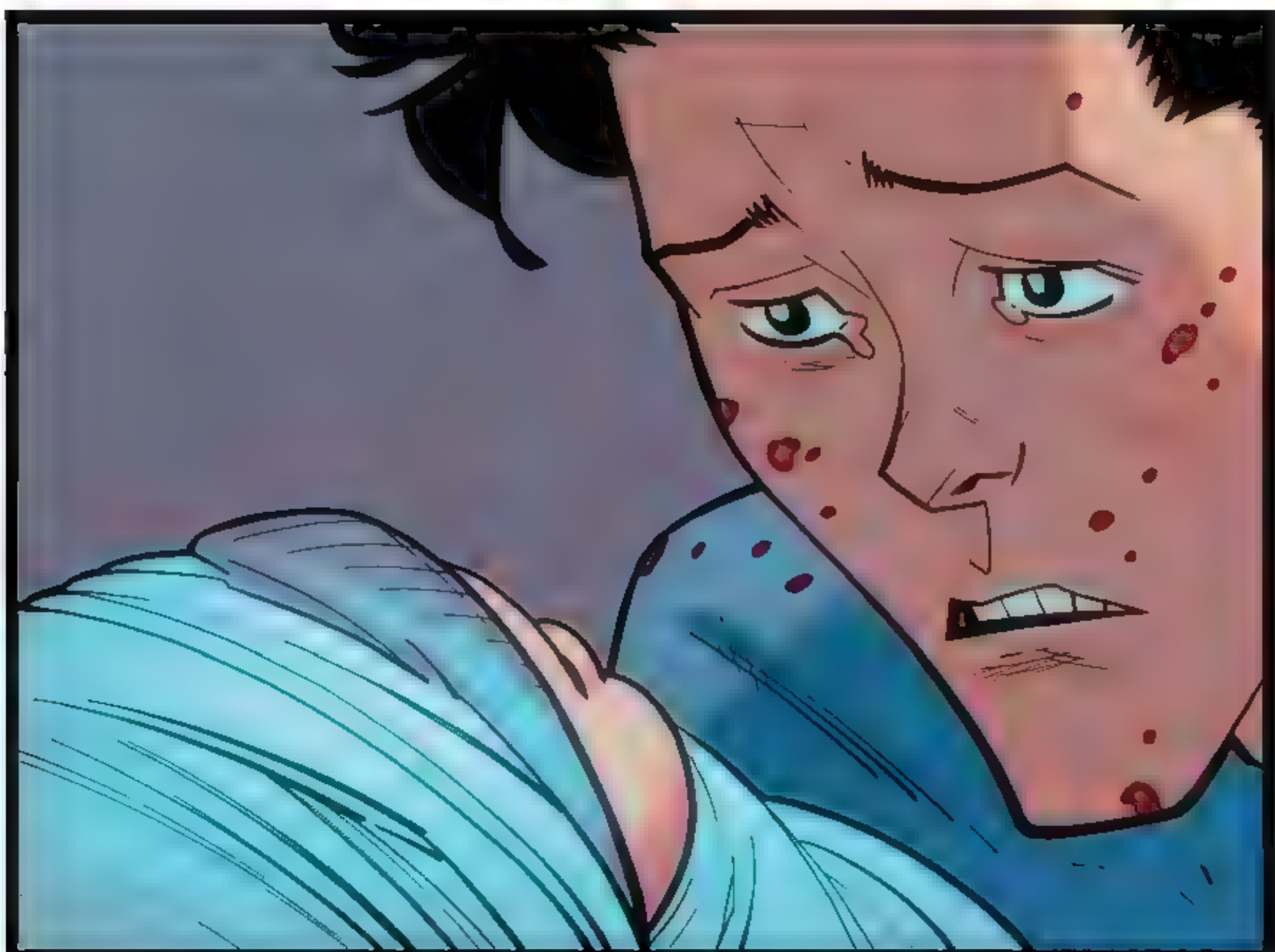
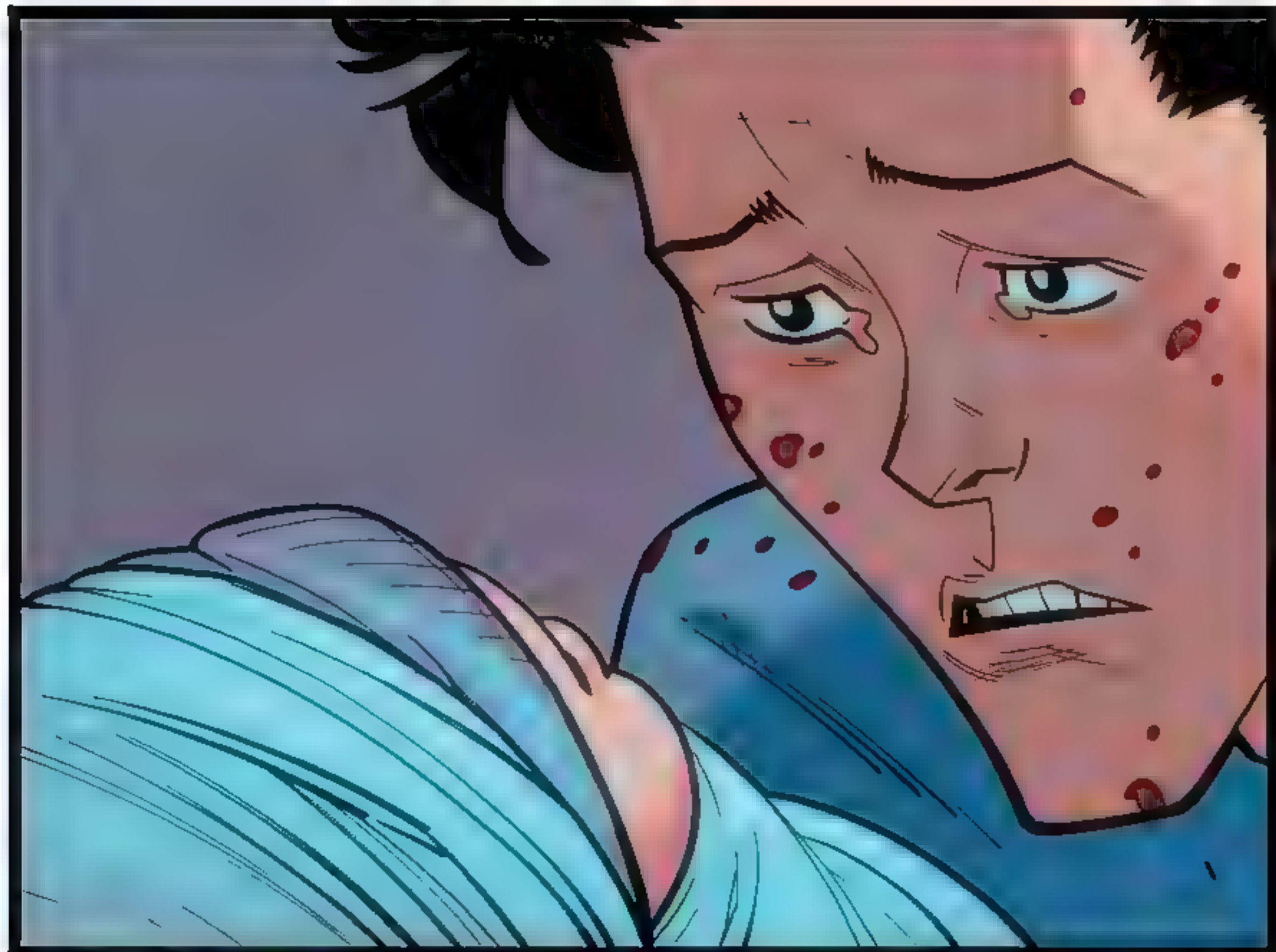
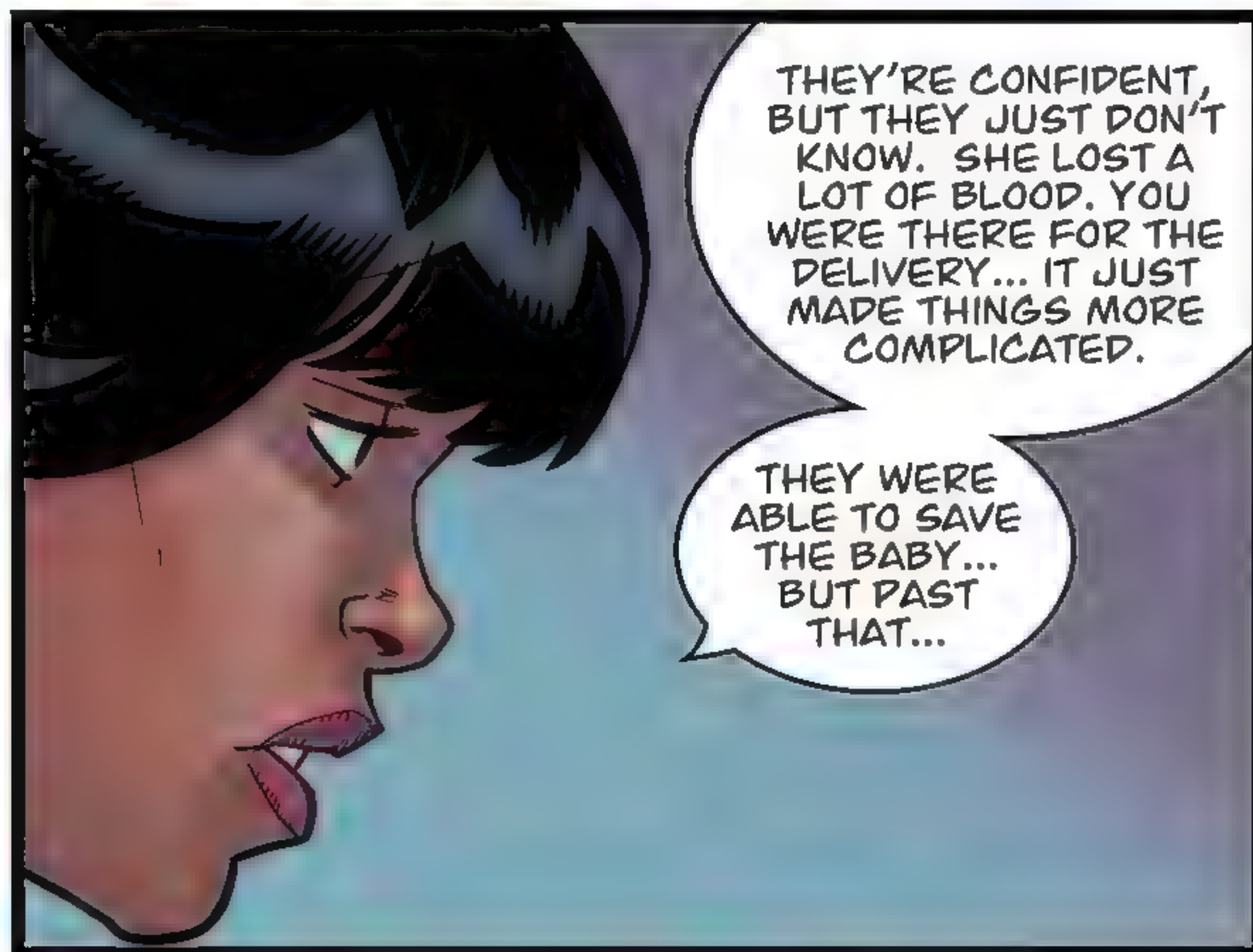


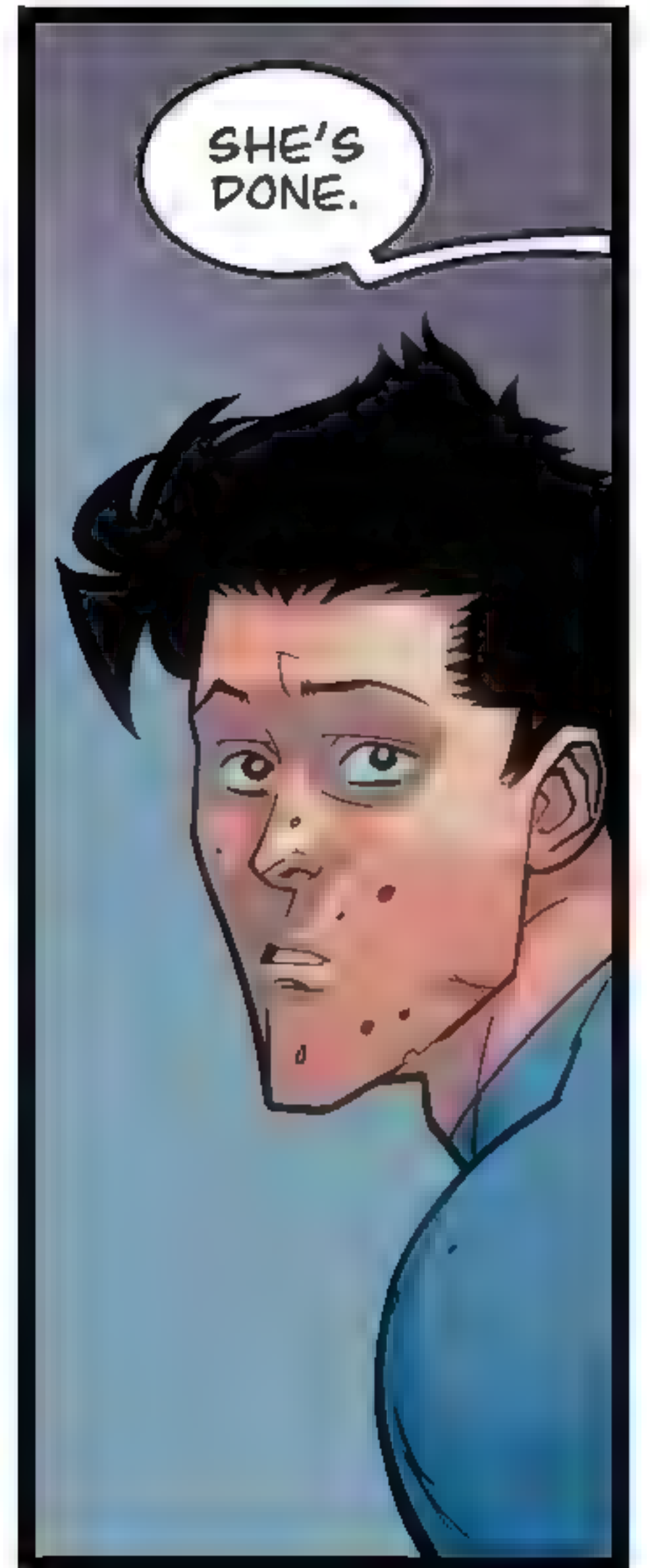
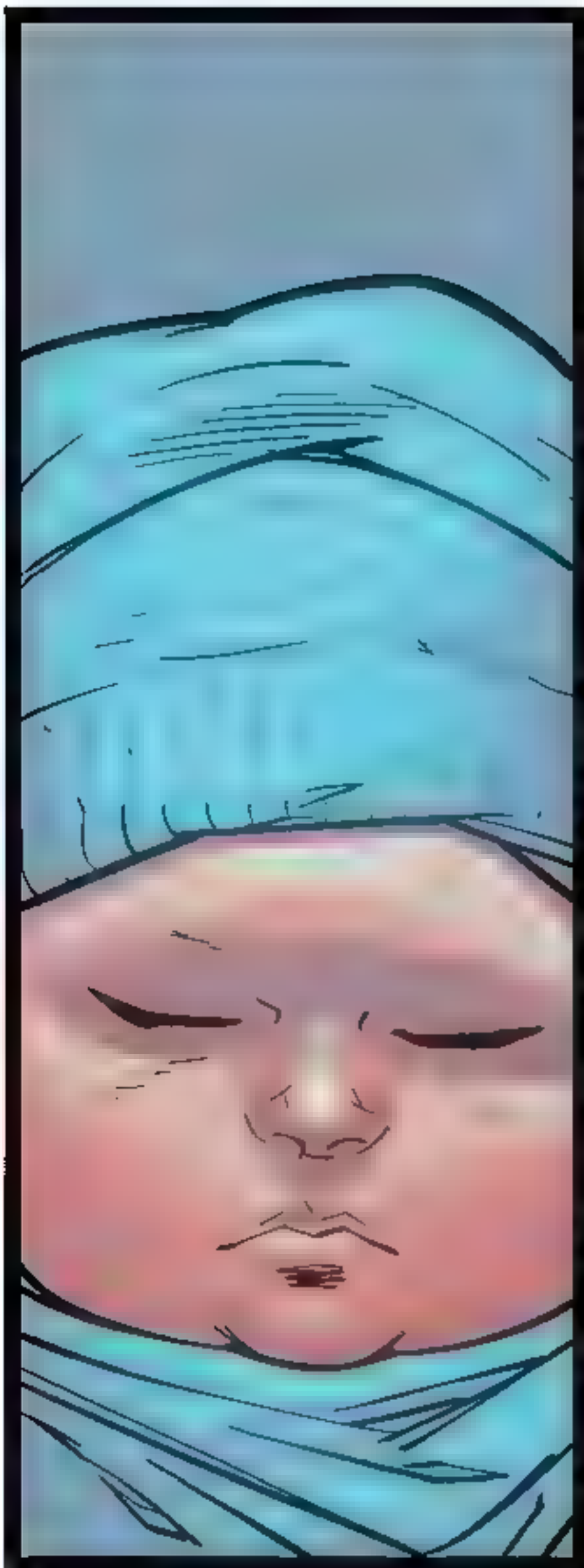
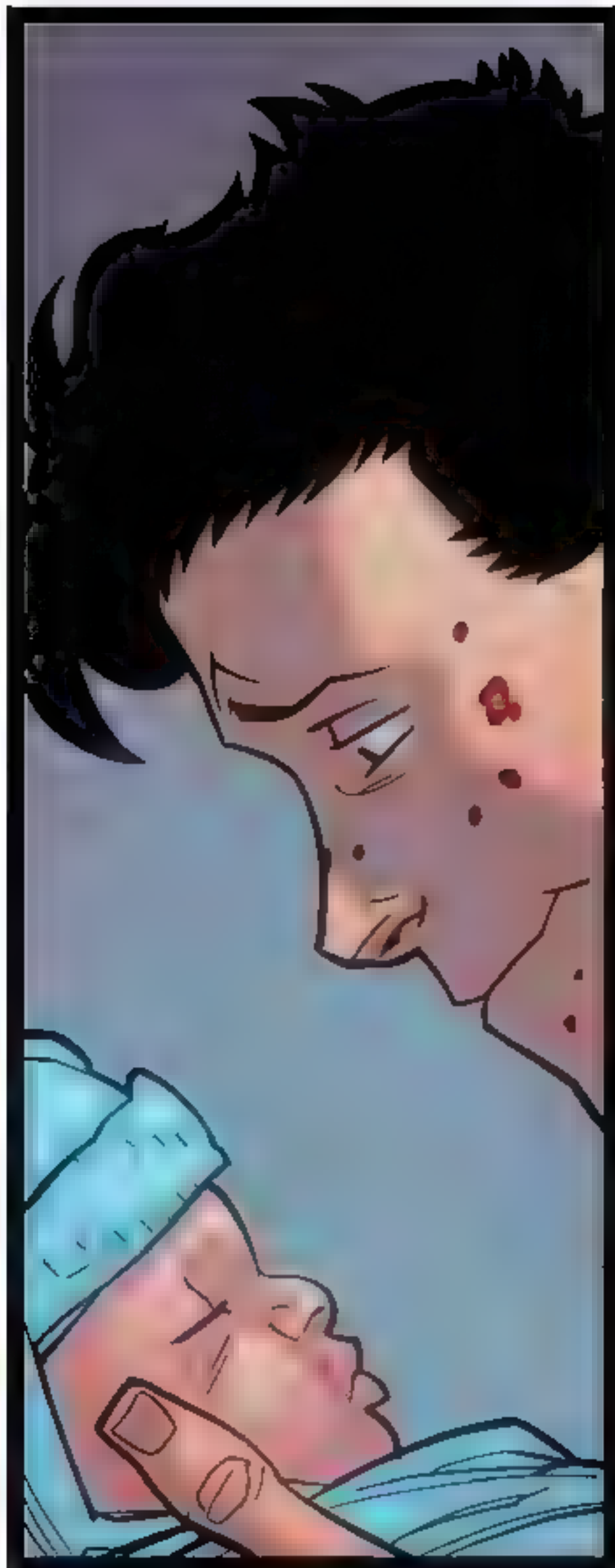
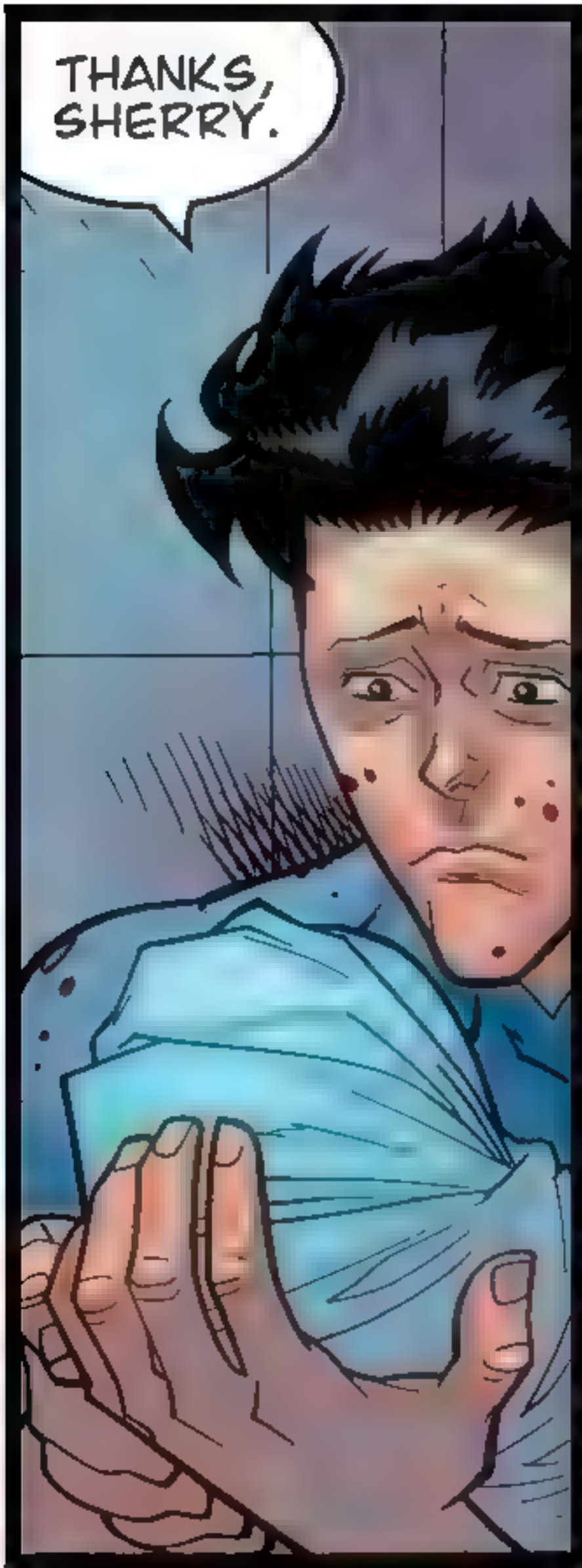
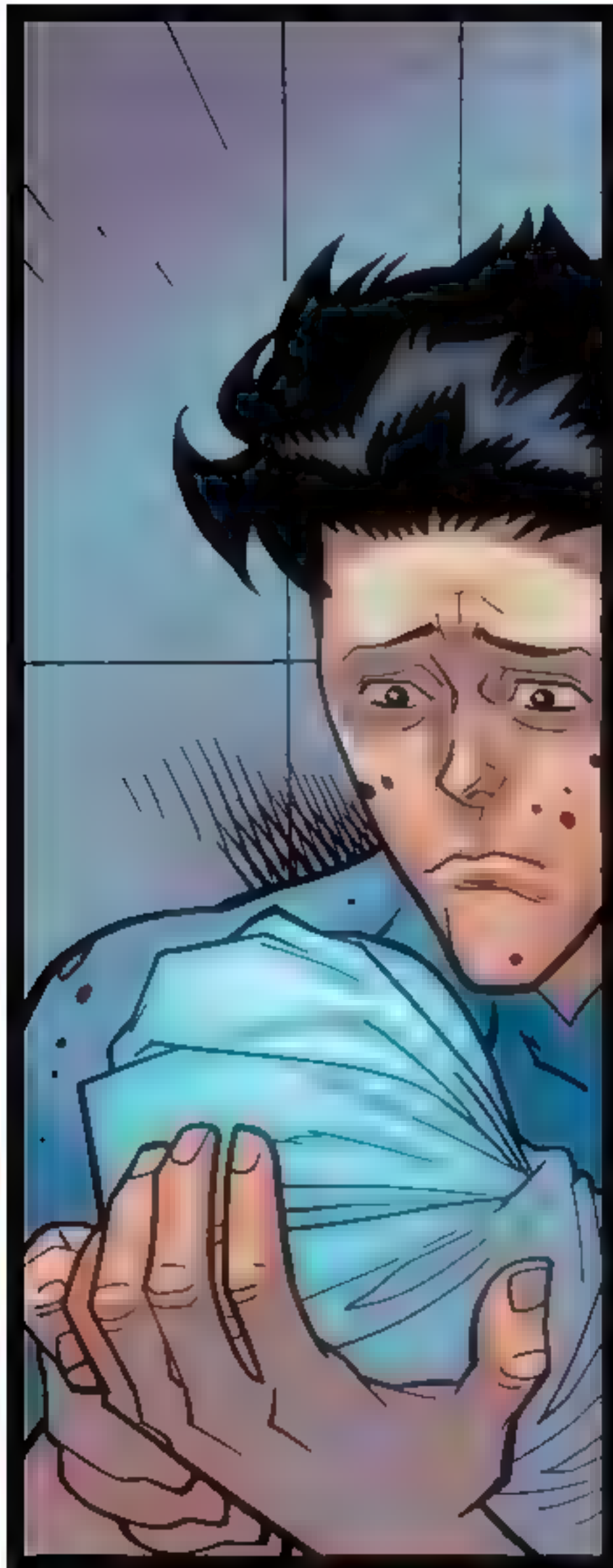


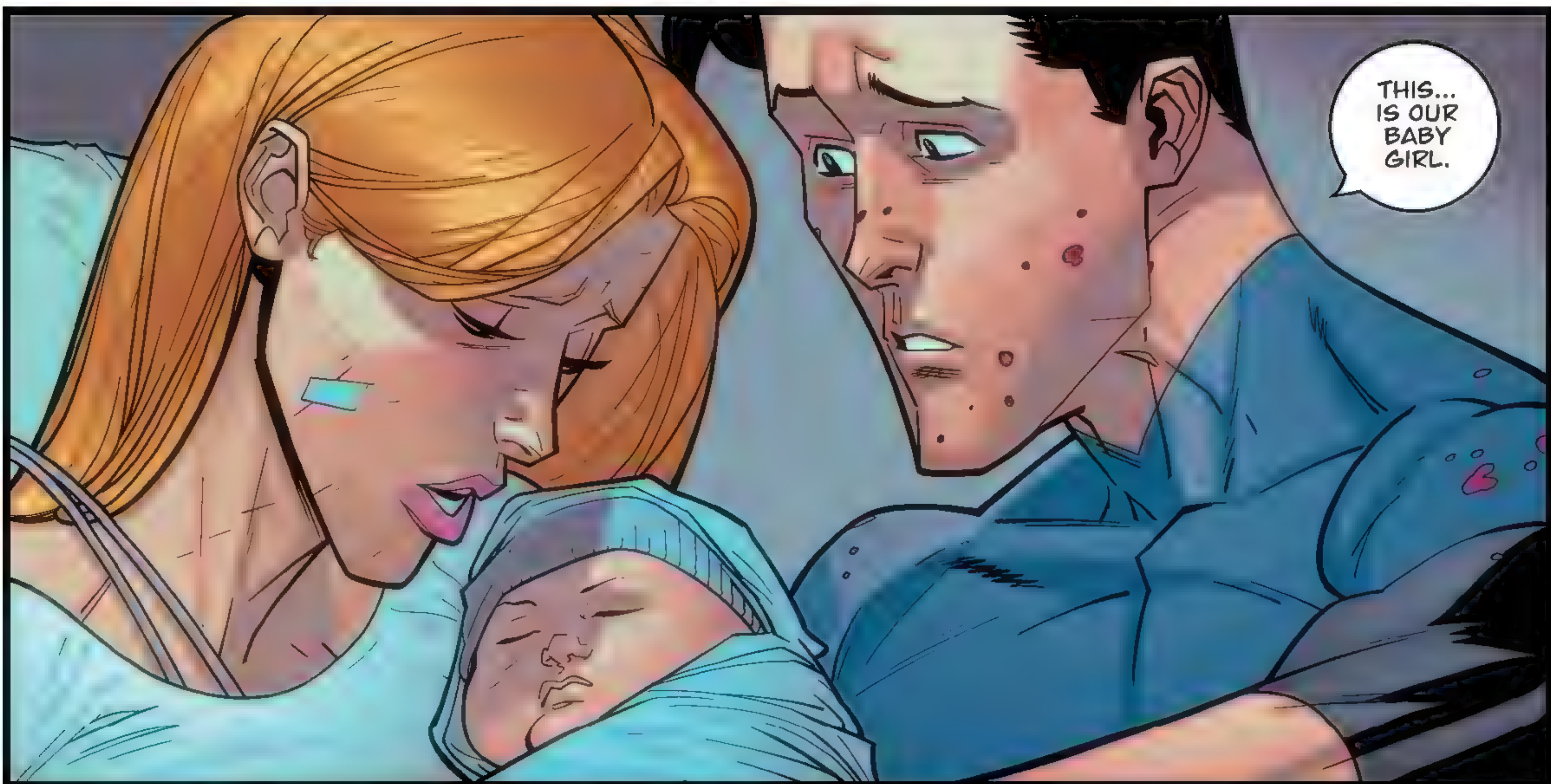


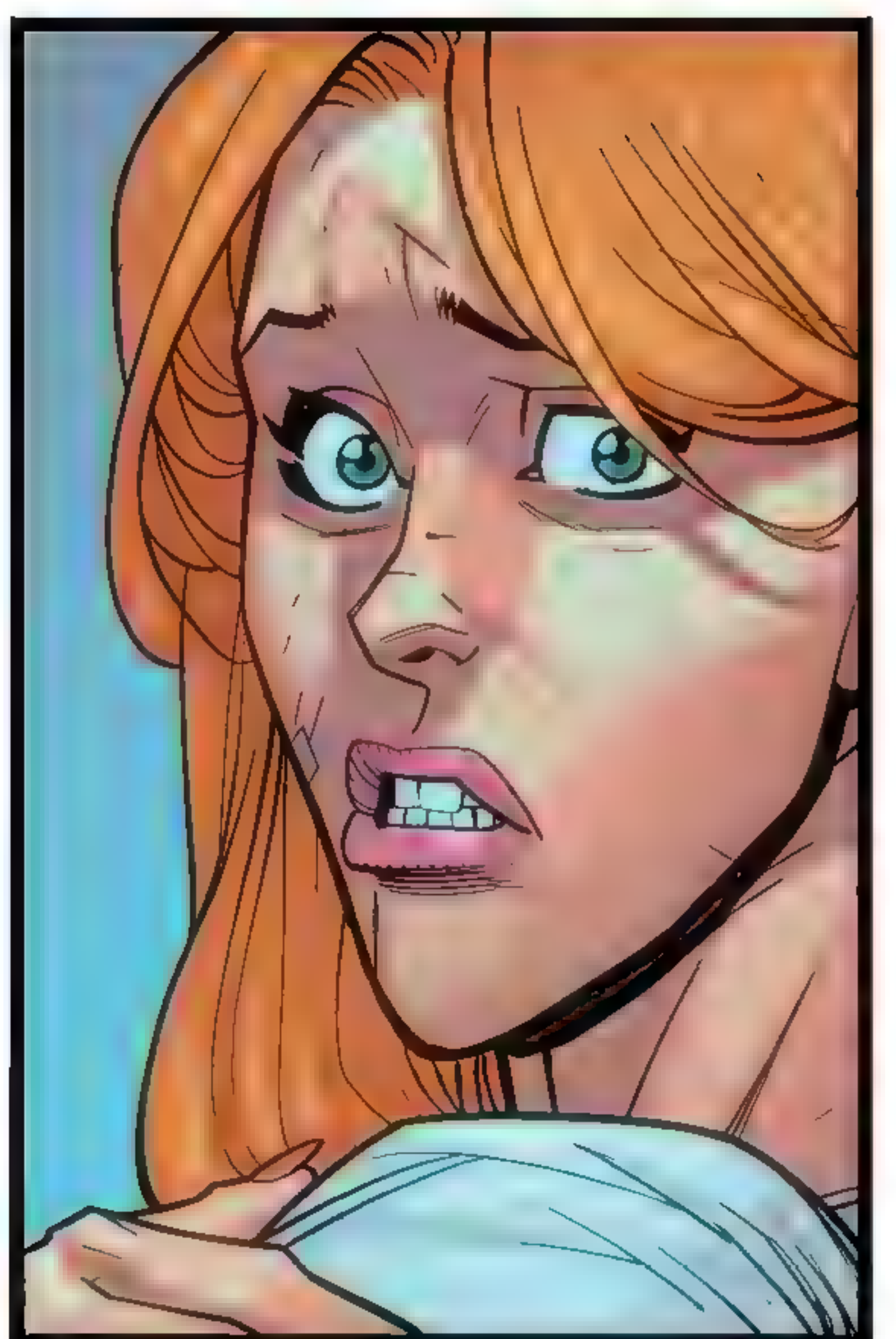
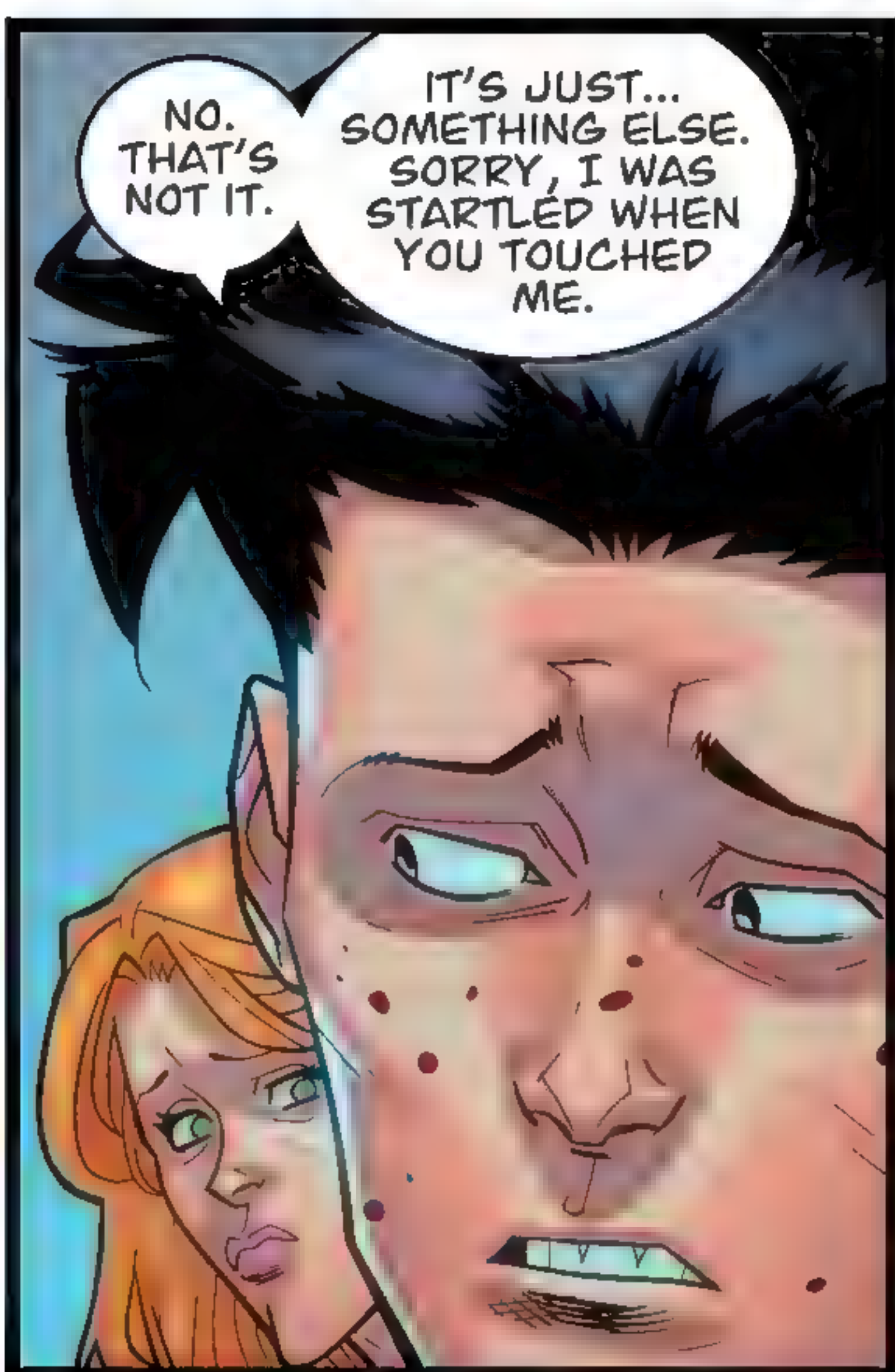
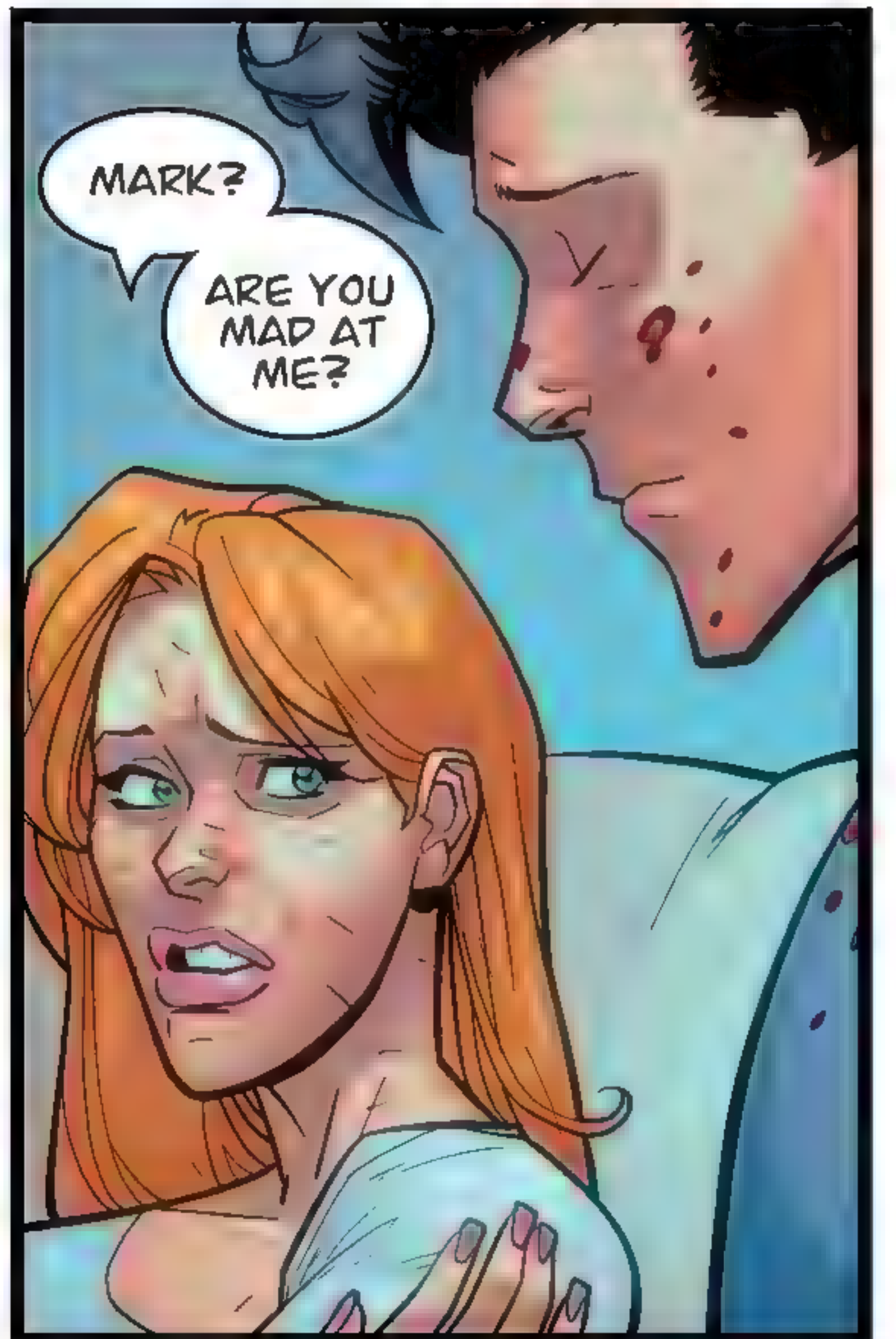
WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO HOLD
HER?









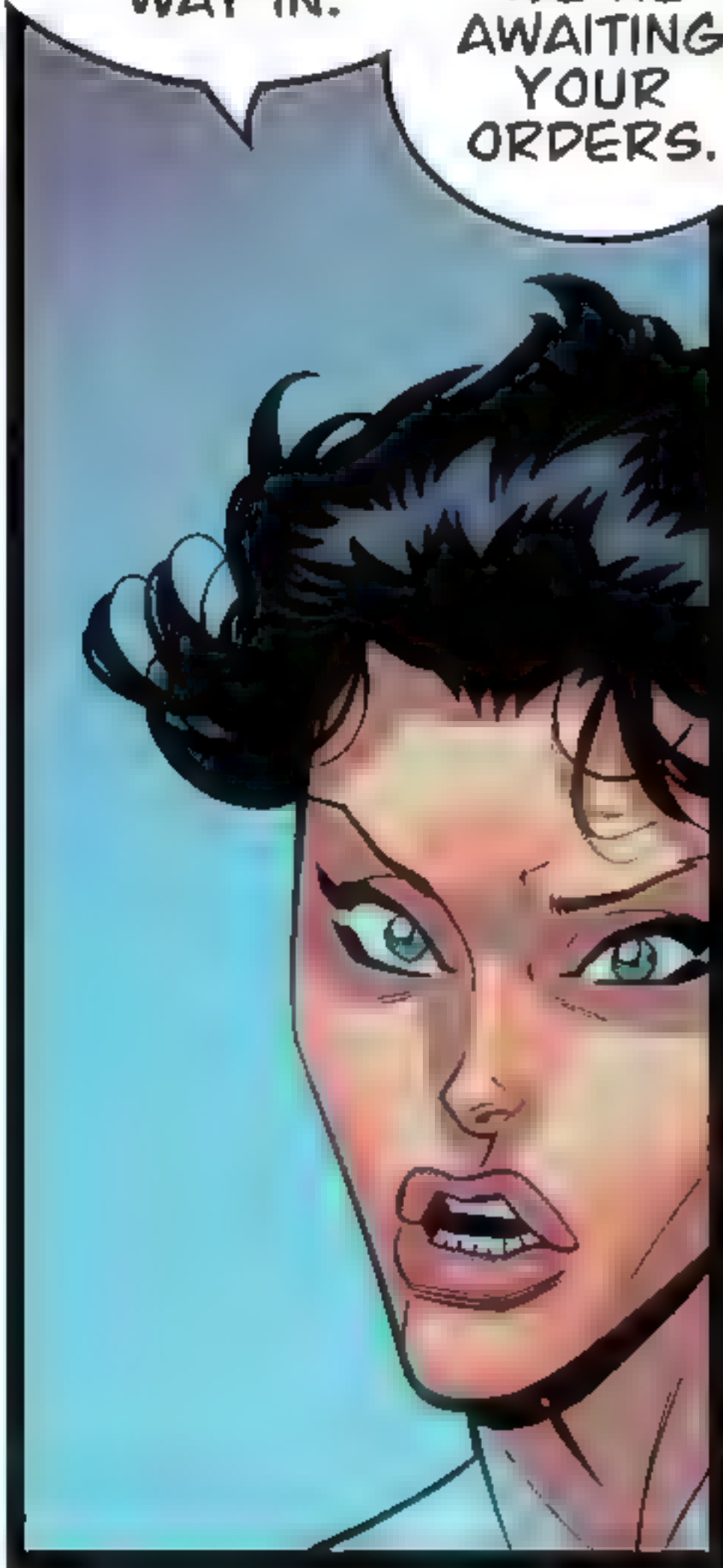






WE'VE ANALYZED THE STATION WE BELIEVE HE'S ON. WE'D HAVE TO FORCE OUR WAY IN.

WE'RE AWAITING YOUR ORDERS.



HE WAS YOUR FRIEND, MARK. DO YOU FEEL HE COULD BE REASONED WITH?

AT THIS POINT... NO.

HE'S CHANGED... SO MUCH. I DON'T FEEL LIKE I EVEN KNOW HIM ANYMORE.



NOLAN, SIRE!

YES?

MISSED YOU.

WE'VE BEEN MONITORING THE STATION AS YOU REQUESTED. ONE OF HIS DRONES LEFT AND...

...IT'S COMING HERE.

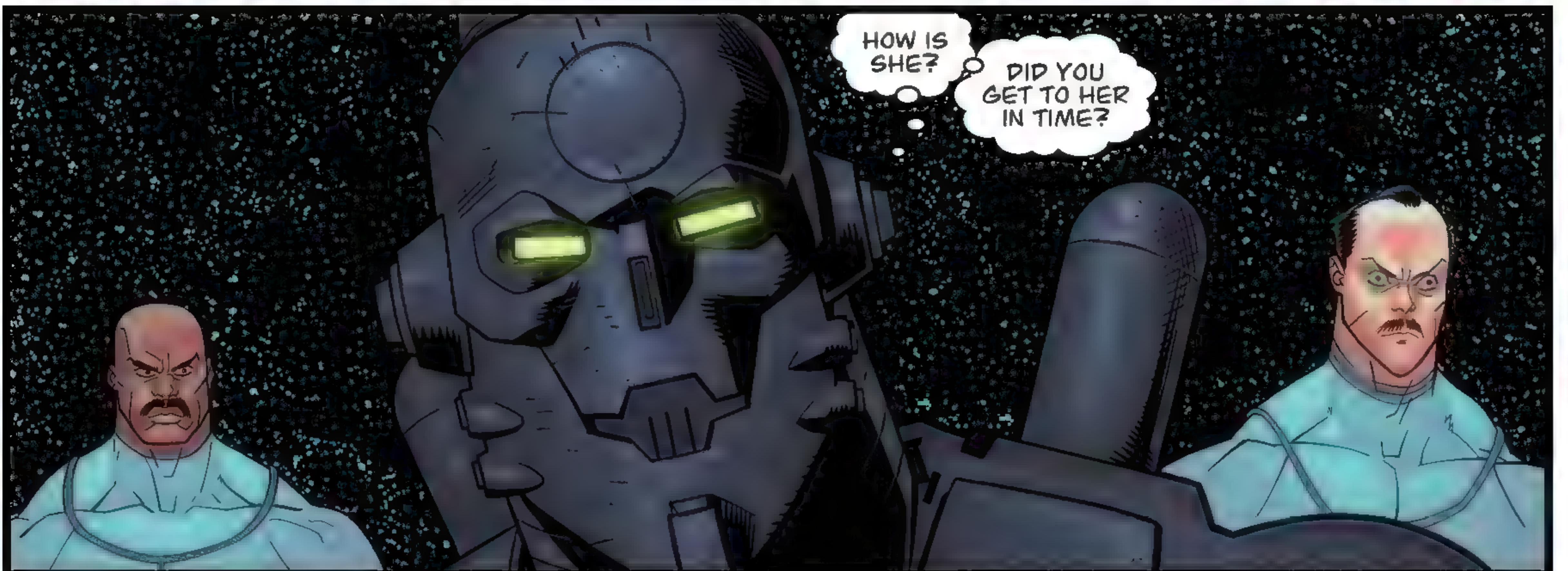
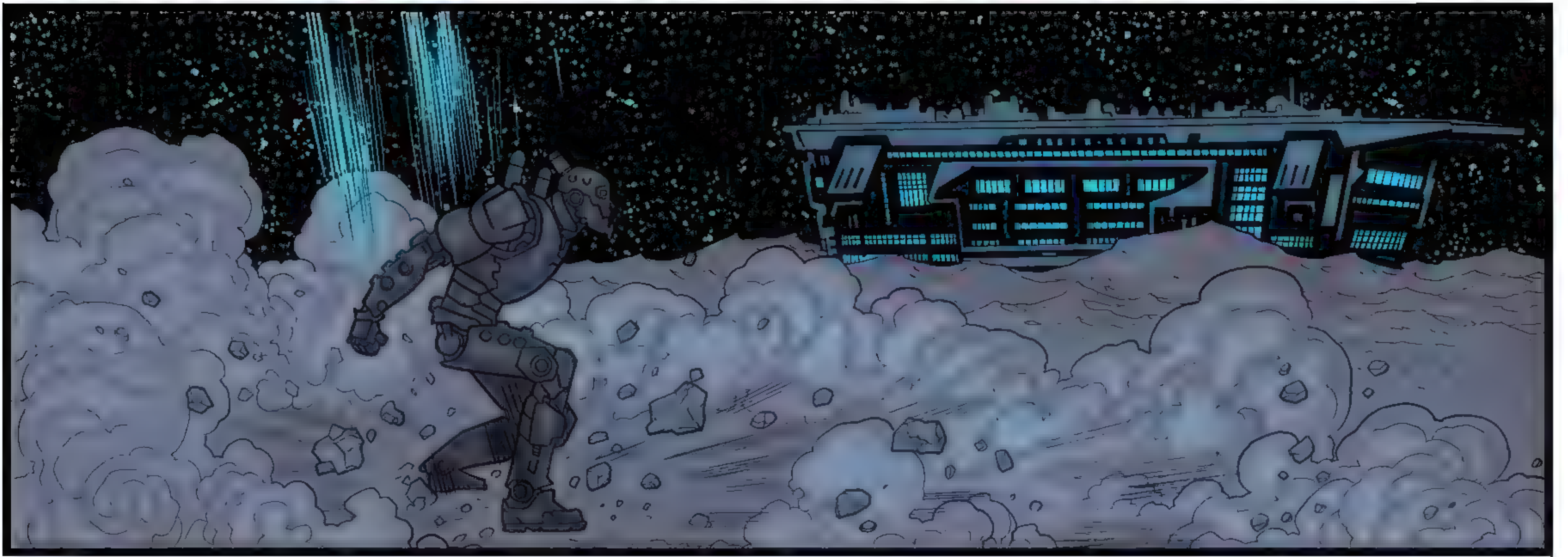


I CAN--



NO.

THIS IS OUR BUSINESS. YOU BE WITH EVE AND YOUR CHILD. KEEP THEM SAFE.

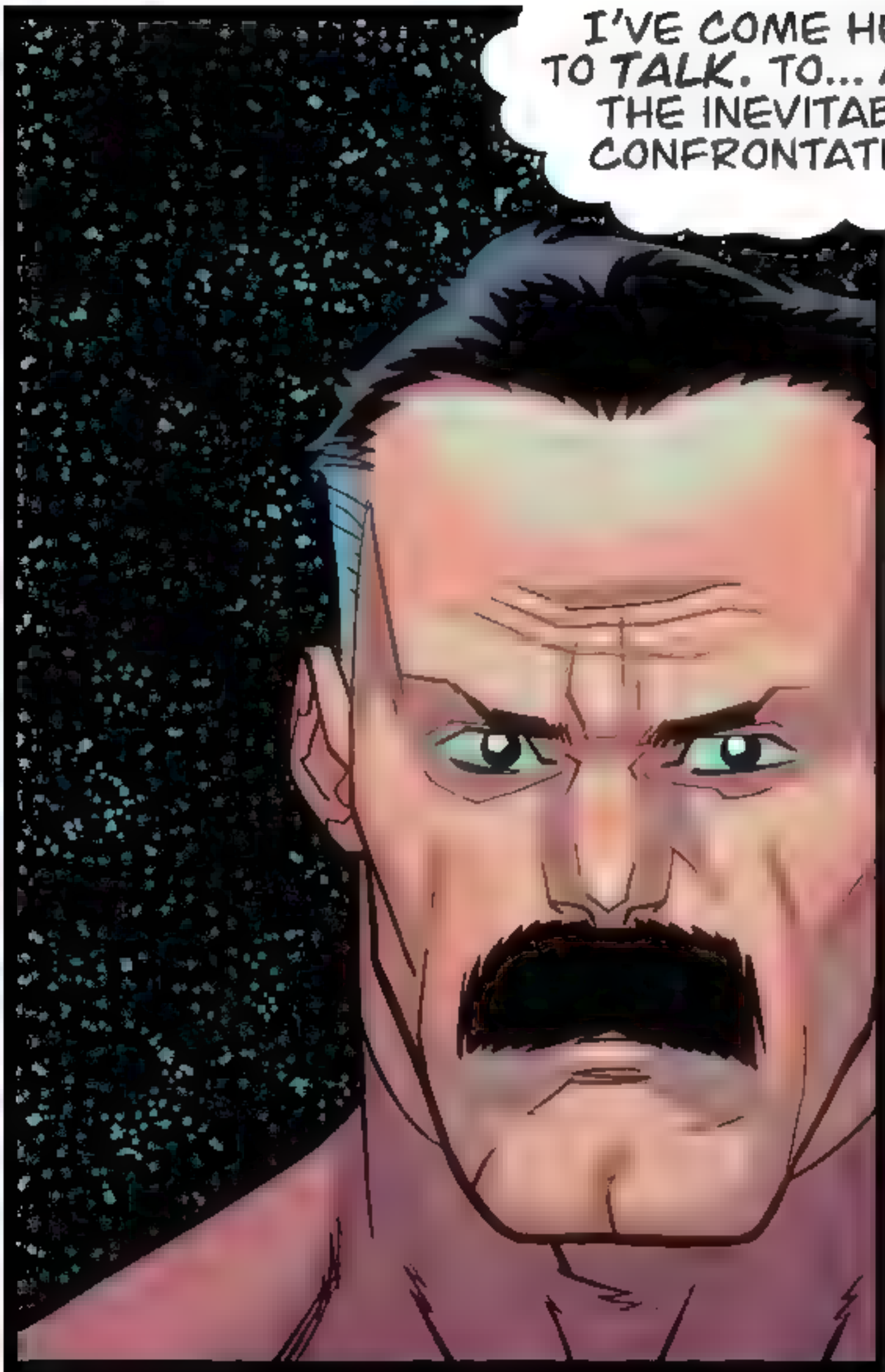


I KNOW
YOU HAVE
HER.

I TELL MYSELF THAT I
ALLOWED HER TO LIVE SO
THAT SHE COULD INITIATE
THIS MEETING. BUT DEEP
DOWN, I THINK I KNOW
I WANTED YOU TO
SAVE HER.

HOW IS
SHE?

DID YOU
GET TO HER
IN TIME?



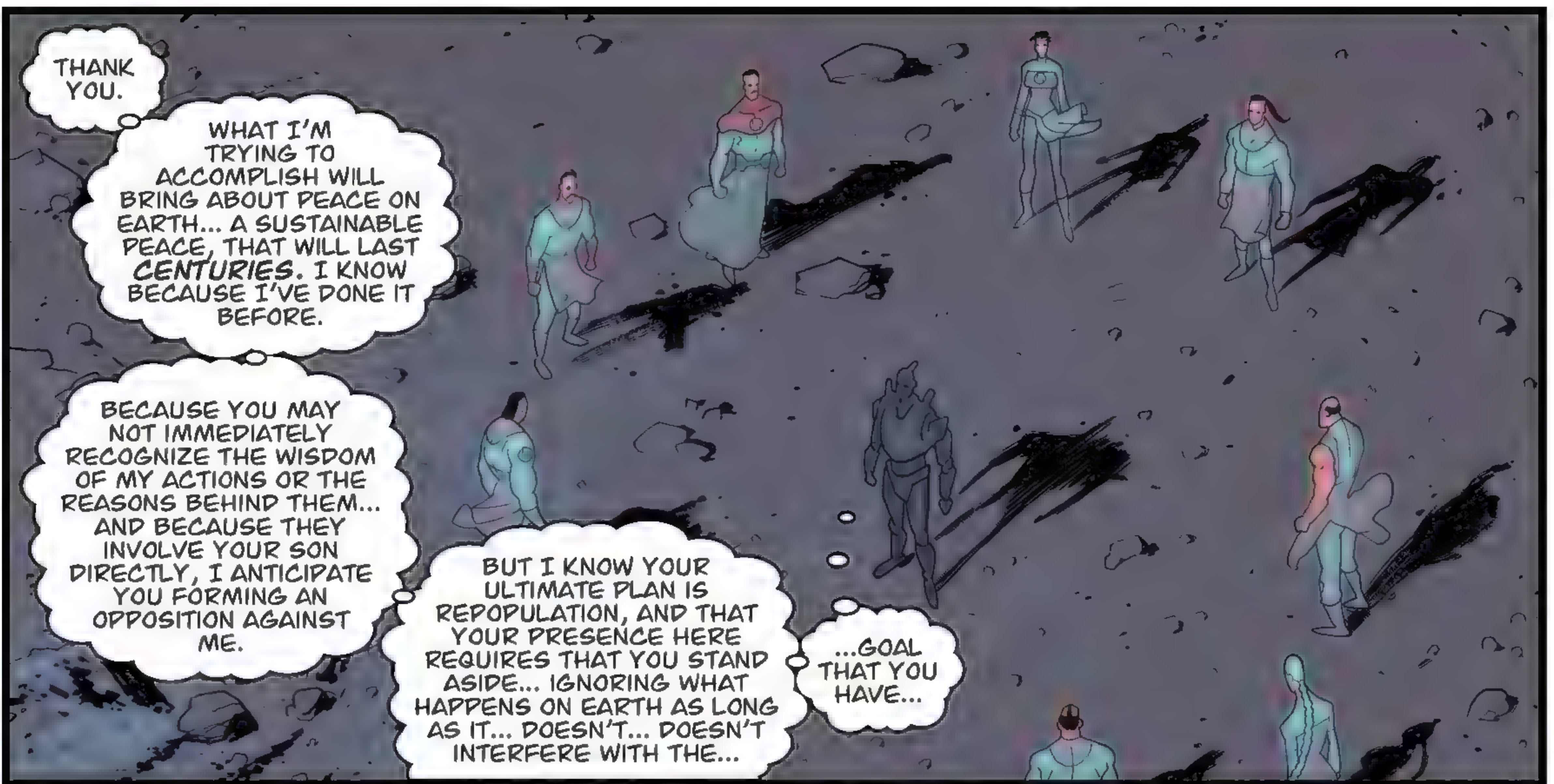
I'VE COME HERE
TO TALK. TO... AVOID
THE INEVITABLE
CONFRONTATION.



TELLING ME HER STATUS
WOULD BE A GOOD
GESTURE... I WOULD...
APPRECIATE IT.



SHE'S
STABLE.



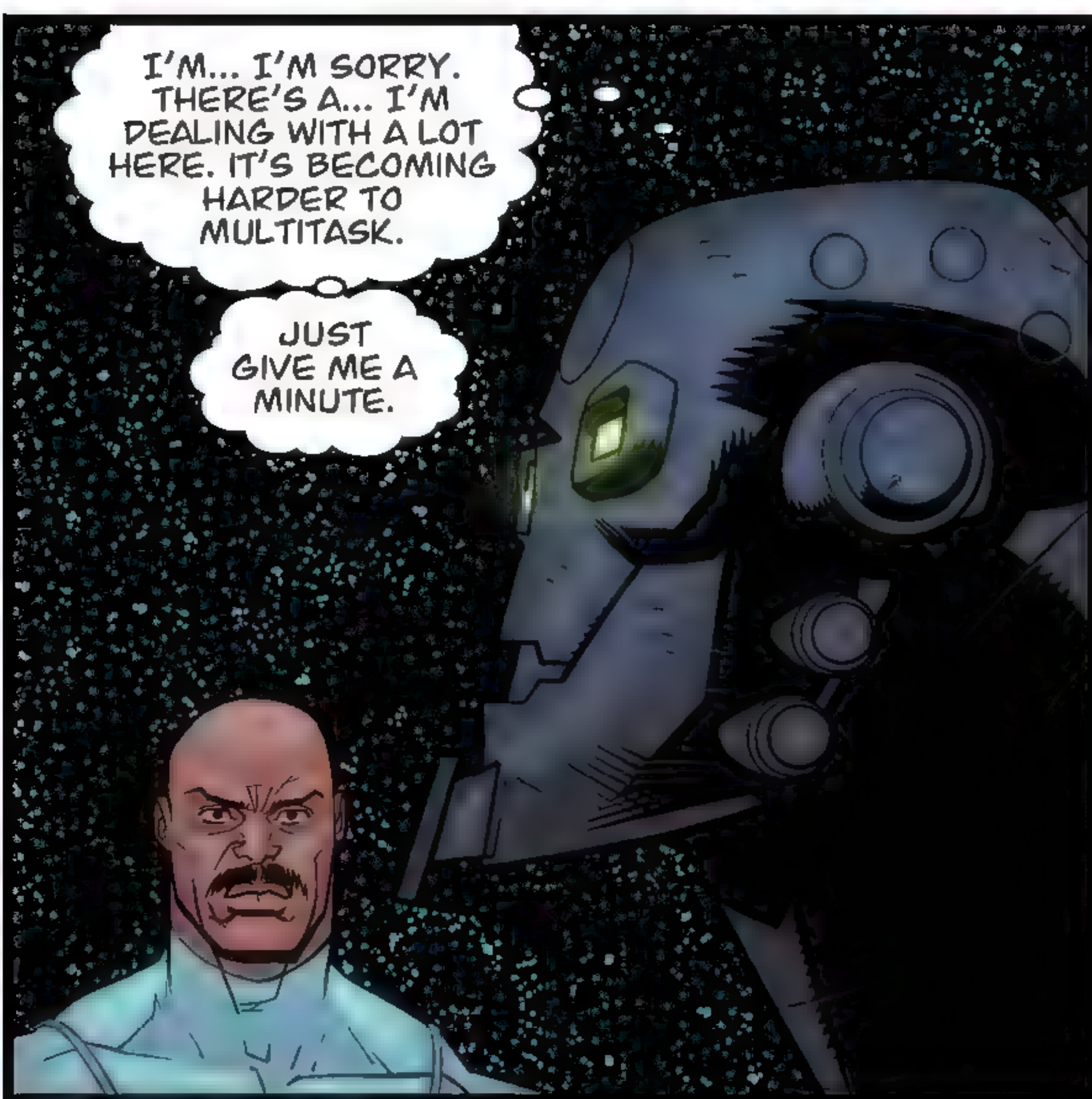
THANK
YOU.

WHAT I'M
TRYING TO
ACCOMPLISH WILL
BRING ABOUT PEACE ON
EARTH... A SUSTAINABLE
PEACE, THAT WILL LAST
CENTURIES. I KNOW
BECAUSE I'VE DONE IT
BEFORE.

BECAUSE YOU MAY
NOT IMMEDIATELY
RECOGNIZE THE WISDOM
OF MY ACTIONS OR THE
REASONS BEHIND THEM...
AND BECAUSE THEY
INVOLVE YOUR SON
DIRECTLY, I ANTICIPATE
YOU FORMING AN
OPPOSITION AGAINST
ME.

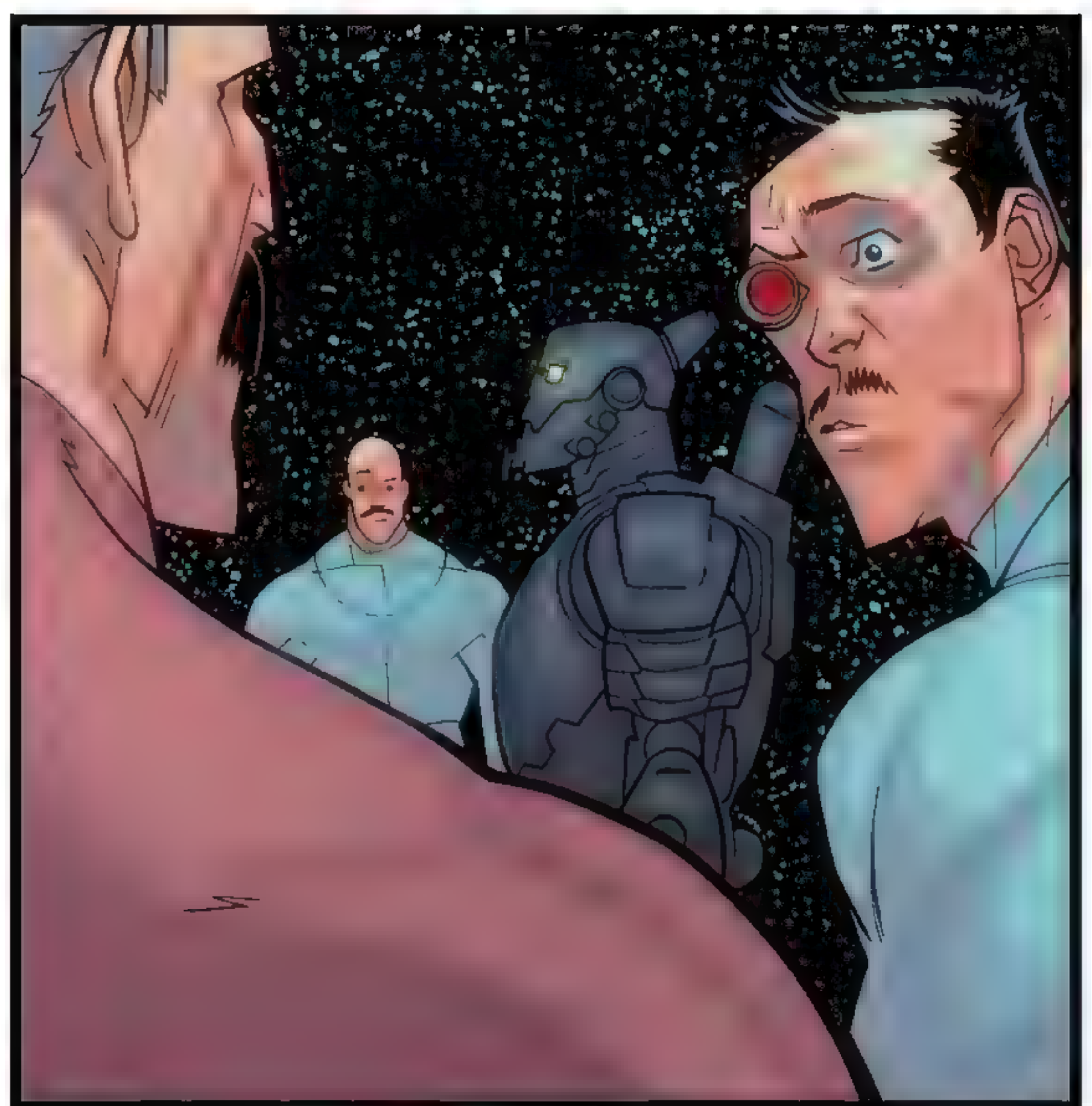
BUT I KNOW YOUR
ULTIMATE PLAN IS
REPOPULATION, AND THAT
YOUR PRESENCE HERE
REQUIRES THAT YOU STAND
ASIDE... IGNORING WHAT
HAPPENS ON EARTH AS LONG
AS IT... DOESN'T... DOESN'T
INTERFERE WITH THE...

...GOAL
THAT YOU
HAVE...

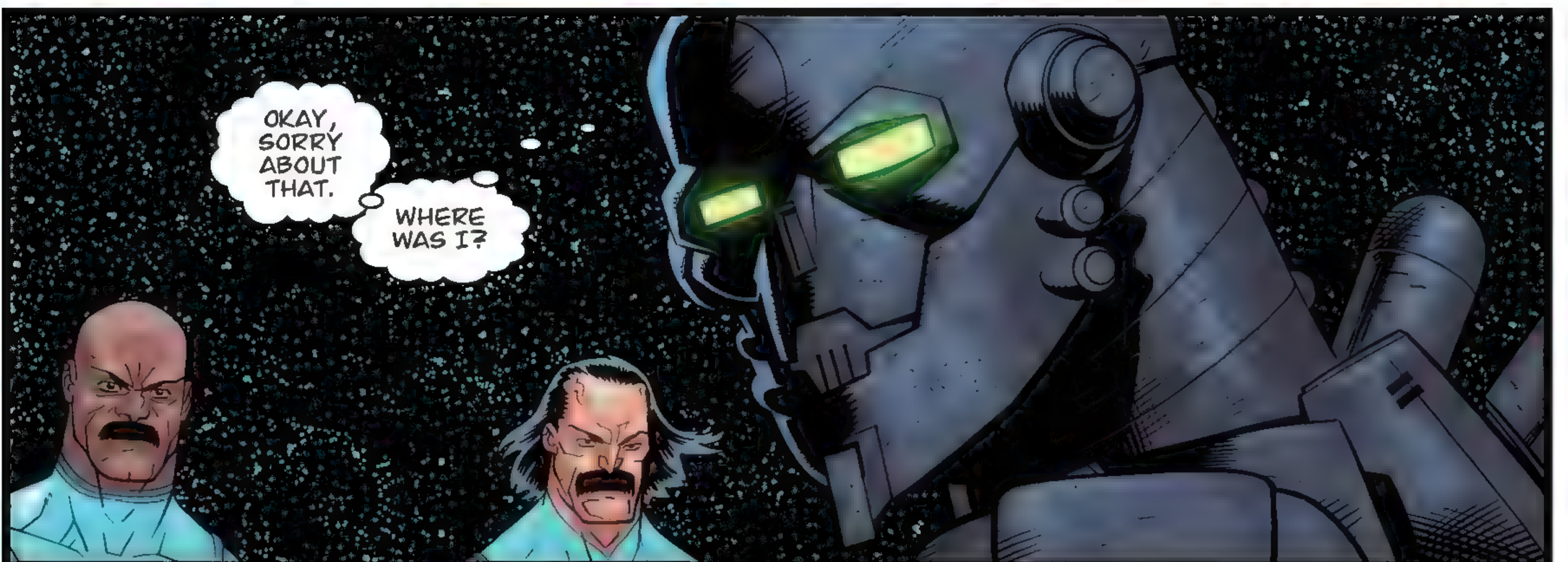
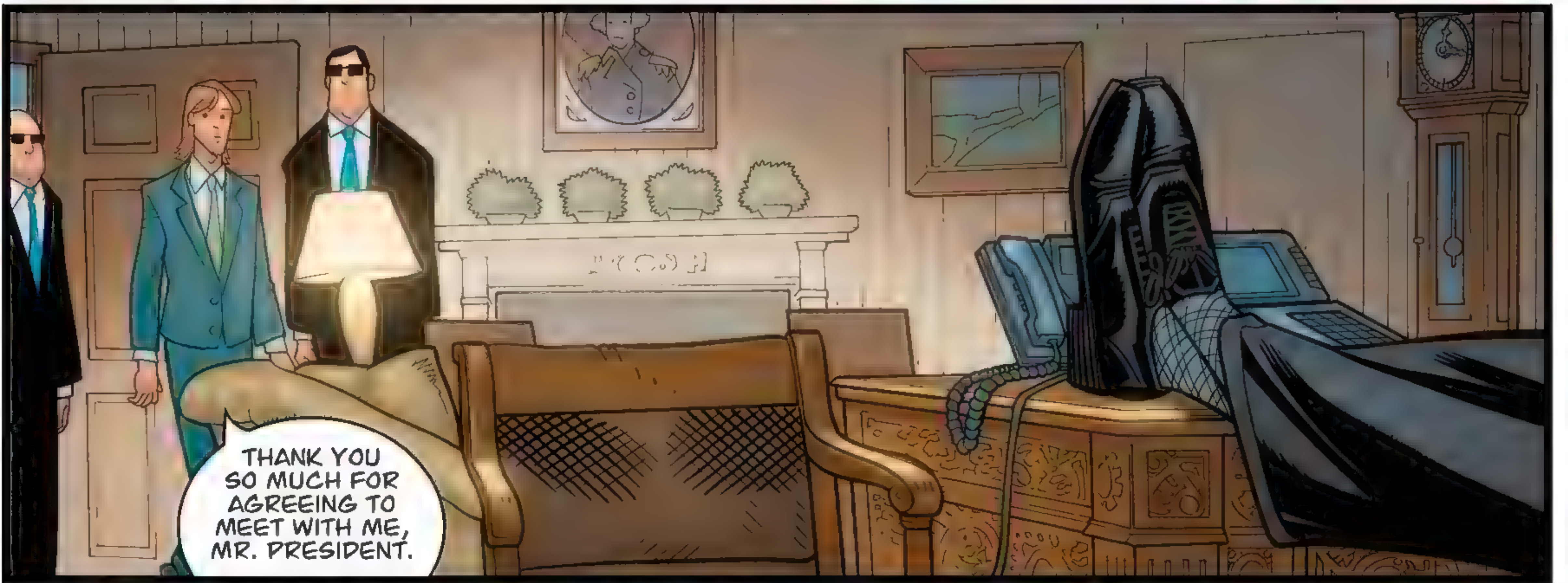
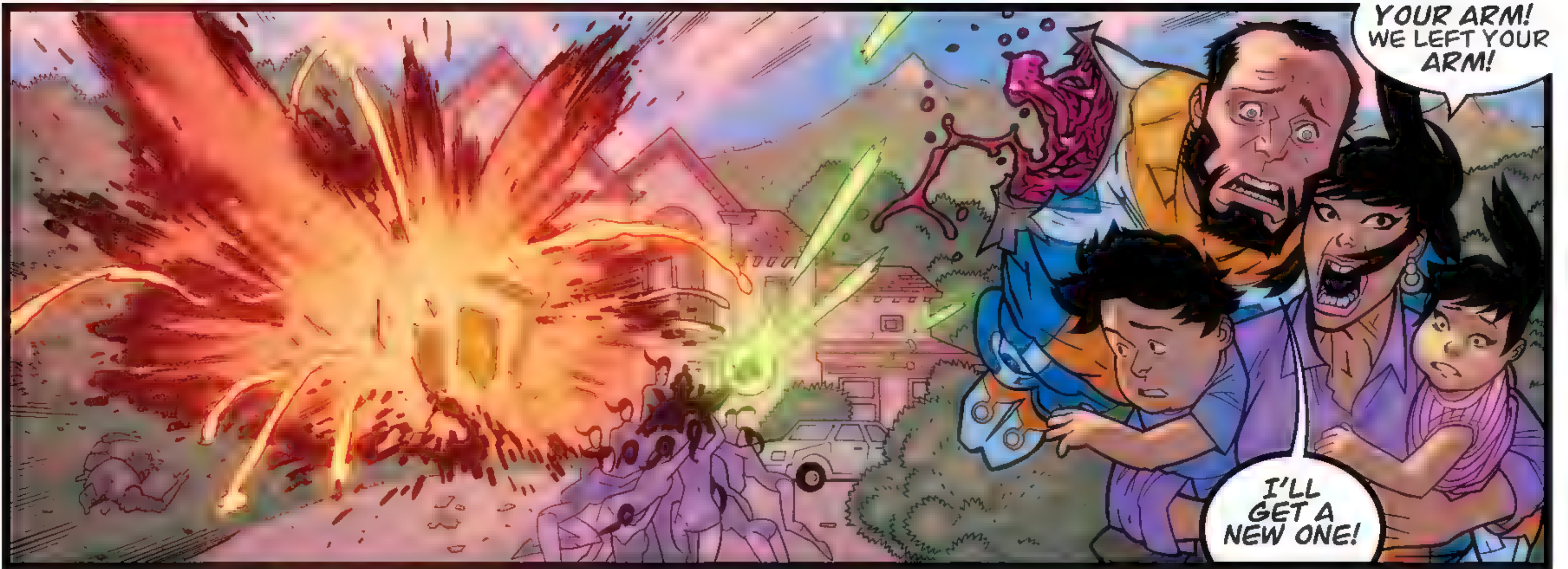


I'M... I'M SORRY.
THERE'S A... I'M
DEALING WITH A LOT
HERE. IT'S BECOMING
HARDER TO
MULTITASK.

JUST
GIVE ME A
MINUTE.





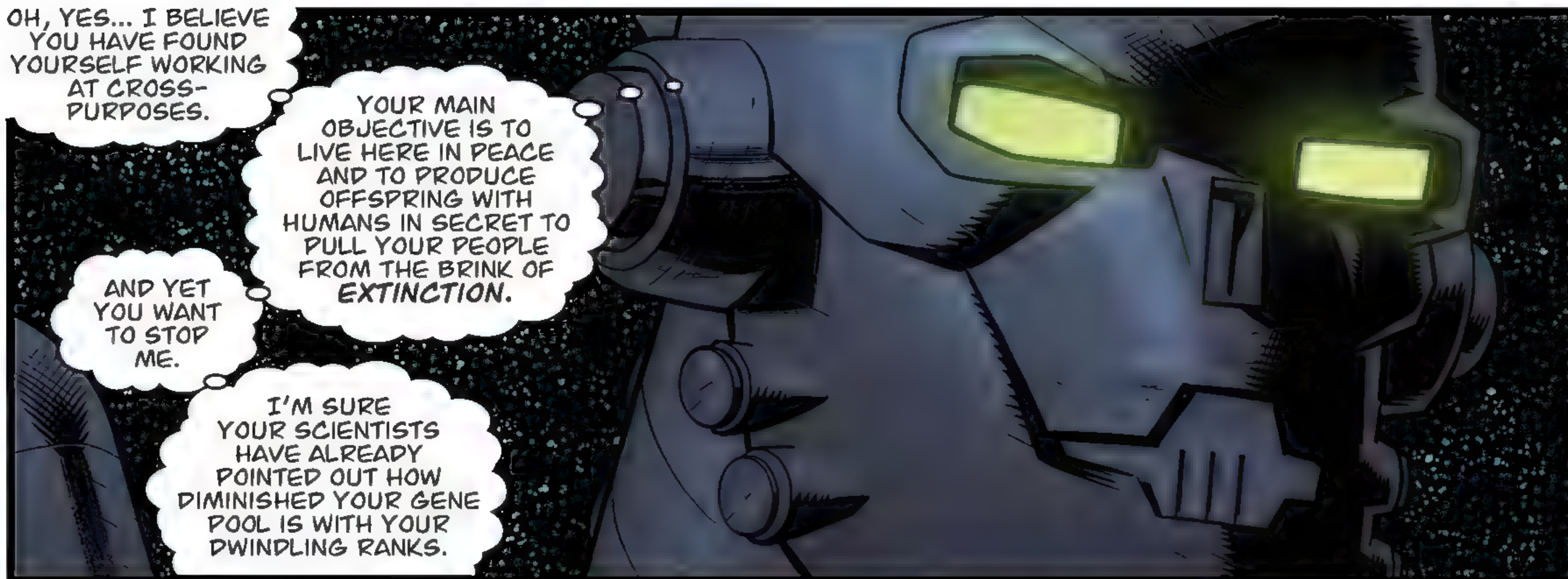


OH, YES... I BELIEVE
YOU HAVE FOUND
YOURSELF WORKING
AT CROSS-
PURPOSES.

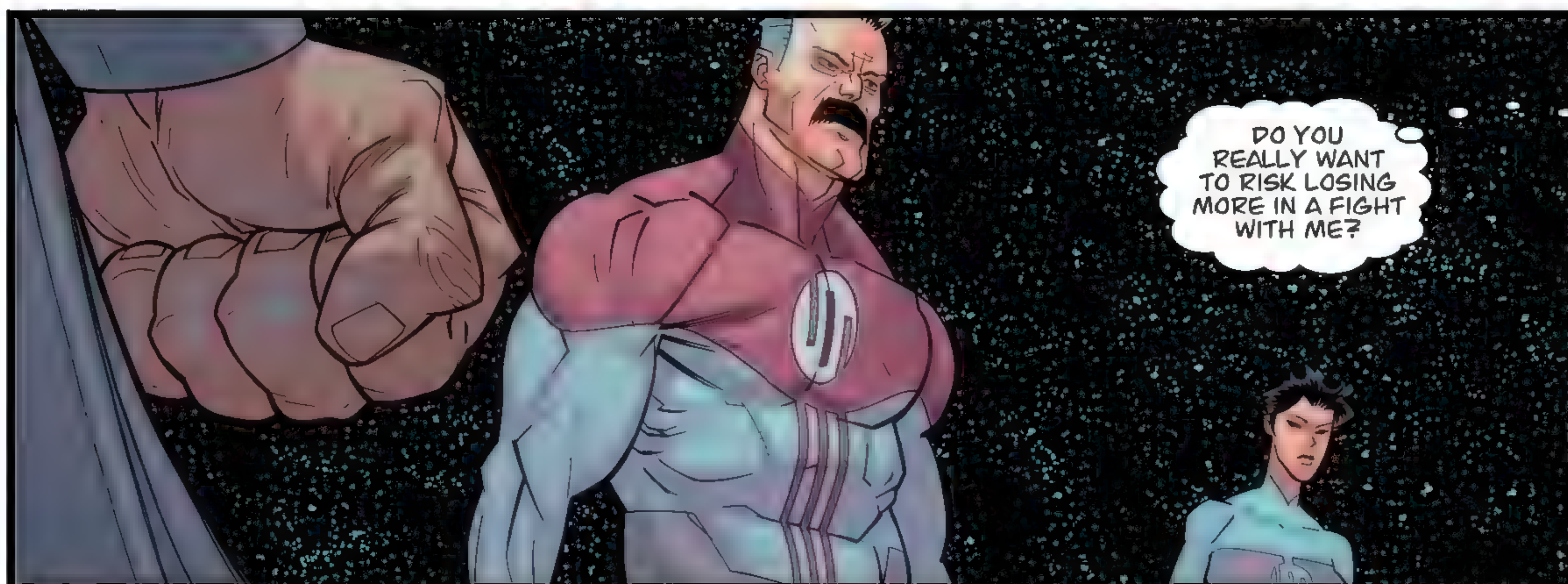
AND YET
YOU WANT
TO STOP
ME.

I'M SURE
YOUR SCIENTISTS
HAVE ALREADY
POINTED OUT HOW
DIMINISHED YOUR GENE
POOL IS WITH YOUR
DWINDLING RANKS.

YOUR MAIN
OBJECTIVE IS TO
LIVE HERE IN PEACE
AND TO PRODUCE
OFFSPRING WITH
HUMANS IN SECRET TO
PULL YOUR PEOPLE
FROM THE BRINK OF
EXTINCTION.



DO YOU
REALLY WANT
TO RISK LOSING
MORE IN A FIGHT
WITH ME?



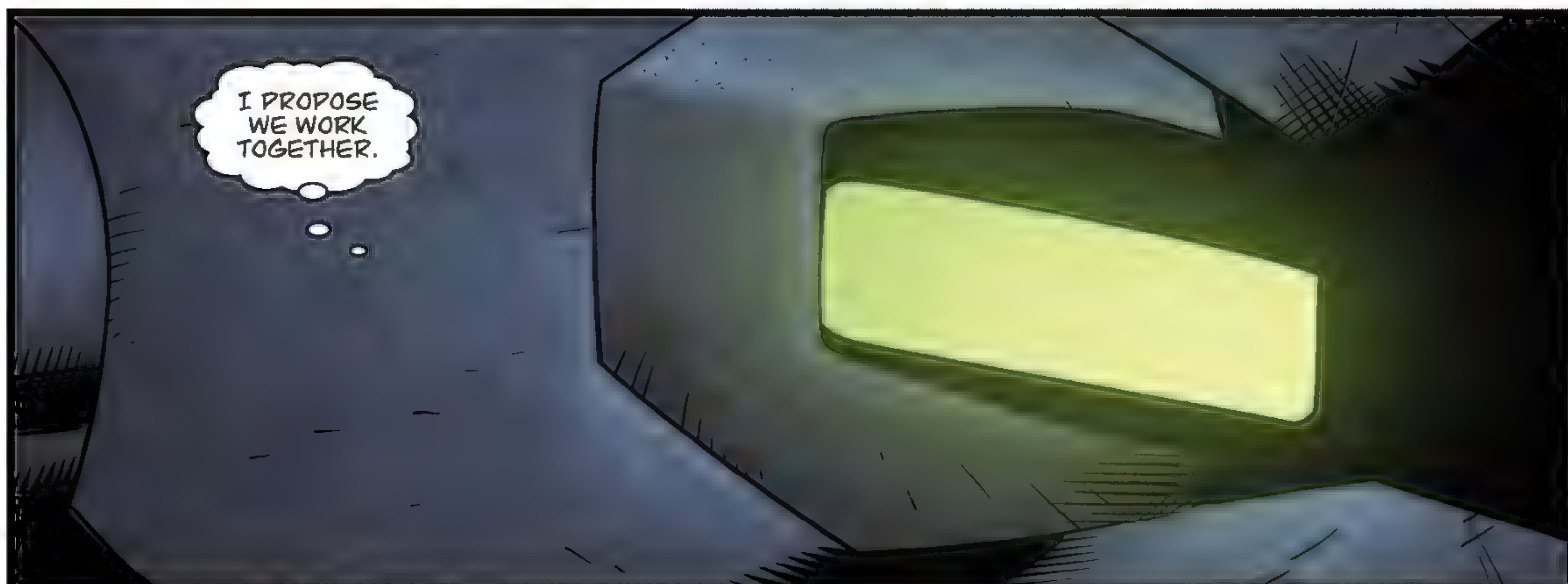
WERE YOU TO OPPOSE ME, I HAVE
NO DOUBT YOU WOULD SUCCEED.
YOU COULD TAKE OVER THIS ENTIRE
PLANET EASILY... BUT AGAIN, NOT
WITHOUT LOSING SOME
OF YOUR OWN.

SO A FIGHT IS UNWISE
FOR BOTH OF US AND I
HAVE NO DESIRE TO FIGHT
YOU. MY ULTIMATE GOAL
IS TO CREATE A UTOPIAN
SOCIETY ON EARTH...
TO DO AWAY WITH ALL THE
DANGER AND TURMOIL
THAT TAKES PLACE
SO REGULARLY
THERE.

TO CREATE
A PERFECT
BREEDING
GROUND.



I PROPOSE
WE WORK
TOGETHER.





I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU. I'LL NEVER DO THAT AGAIN.

DON'T INSULT ME.

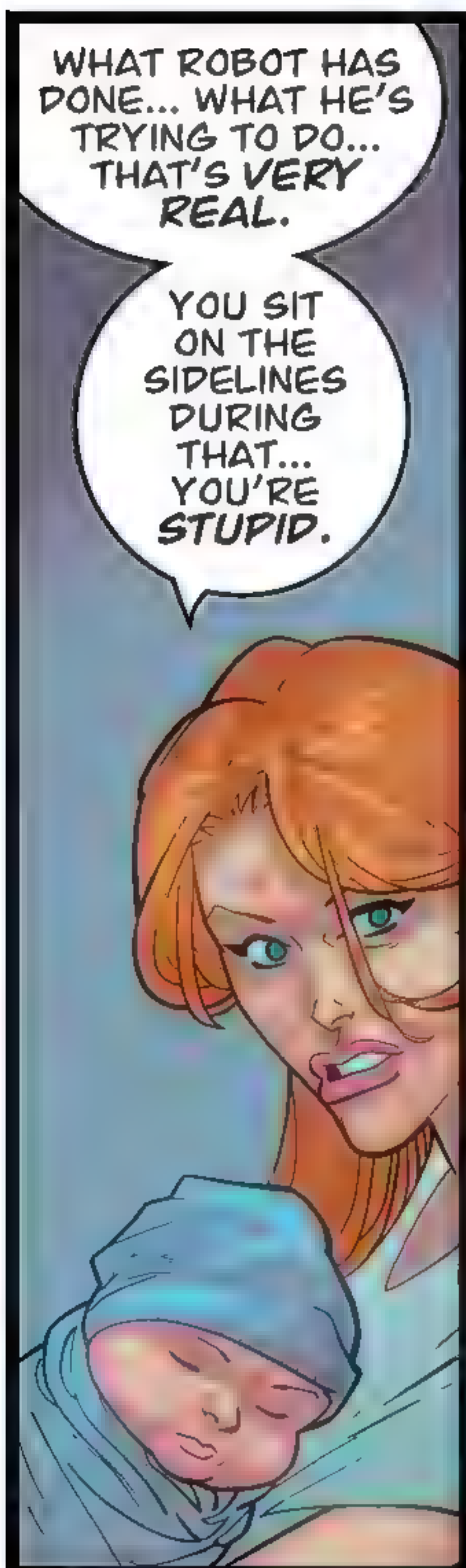
WHAT?



DON'T MAKE ME OUT TO BE SOME SCARED CHILD WHO CAN'T BE ALONE. THAT'S NEVER WHAT THIS WAS.

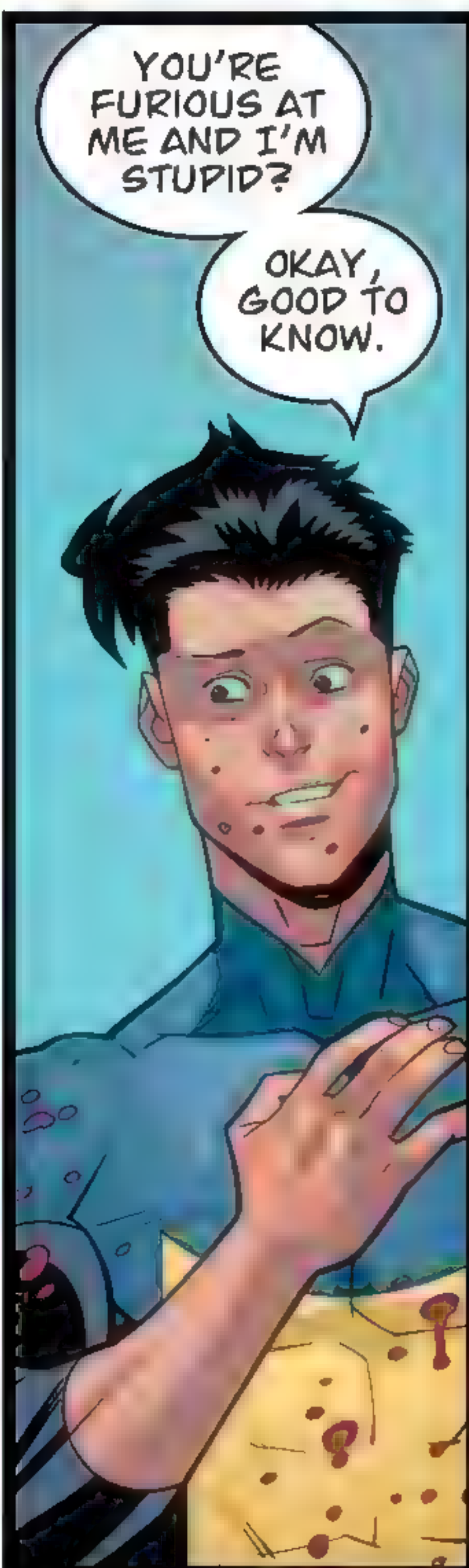
I'VE BEEN A SUPERHERO LONGER THAN YOU. I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.

I WAS MAD AT YOU... NO, **FURIOUS** THAT YOU WERE RISKING YOUR LIFE TO FIND ANGSTROM LEVY, BECAUSE HE "MIGHT" ATTACK AGAIN. YOU ABANDONED ME ON A **MAYBE**. THIS ISN'T THAT.



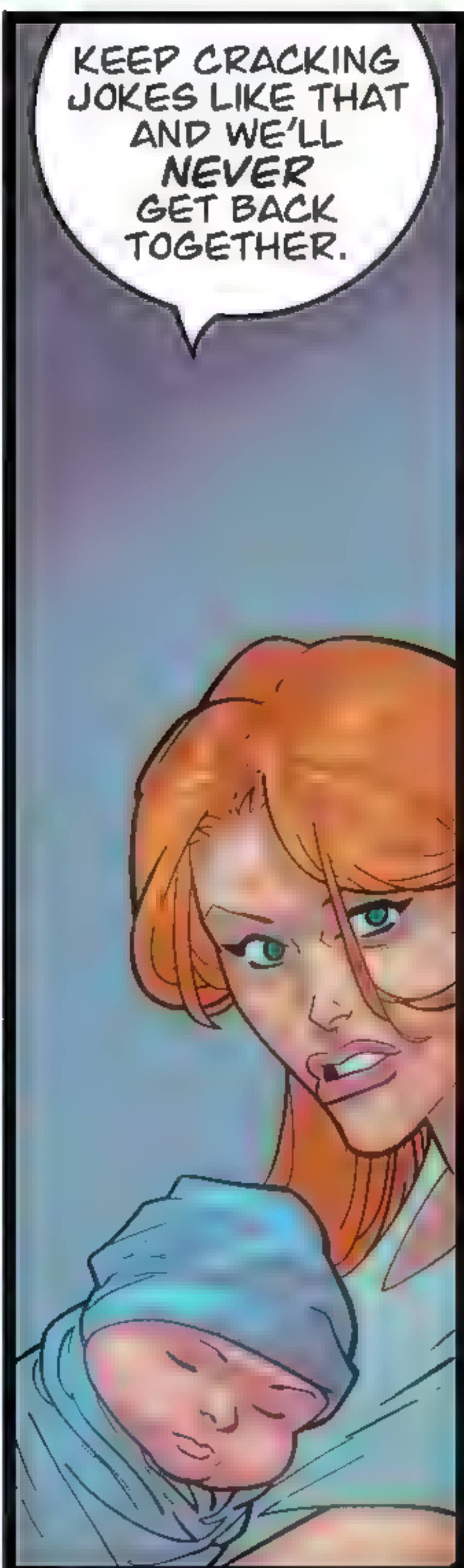
WHAT ROBOT HAS DONE... WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO... THAT'S VERY REAL.

YOU SIT ON THE SIDELINES DURING THAT... YOU'RE STUPID.

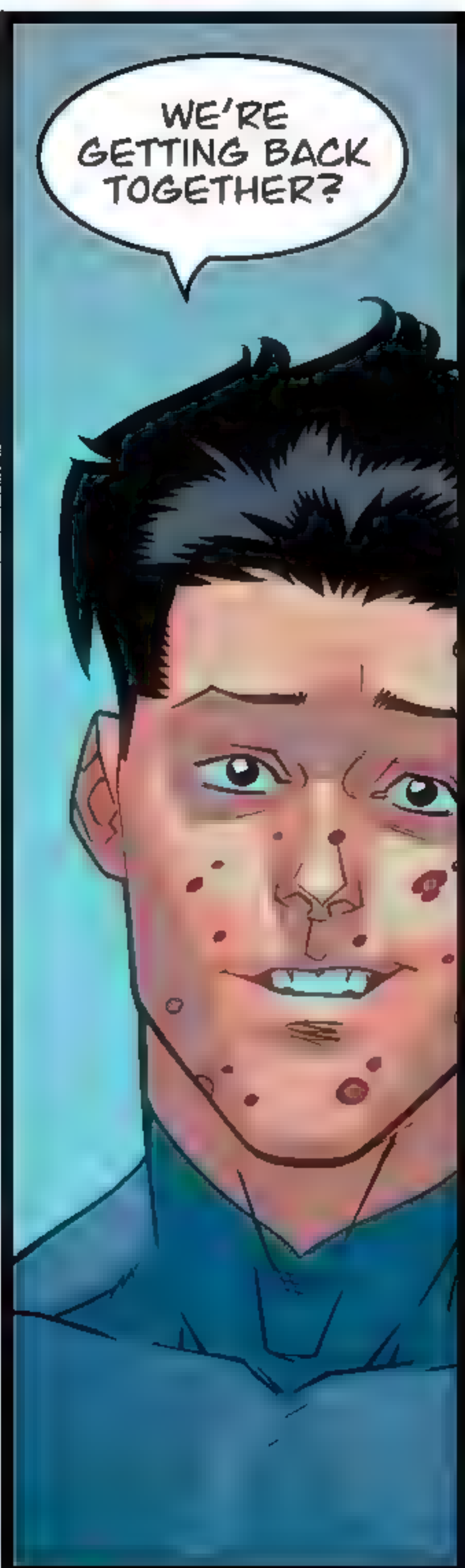


YOU'RE FURIOUS AT ME AND I'M STUPID?

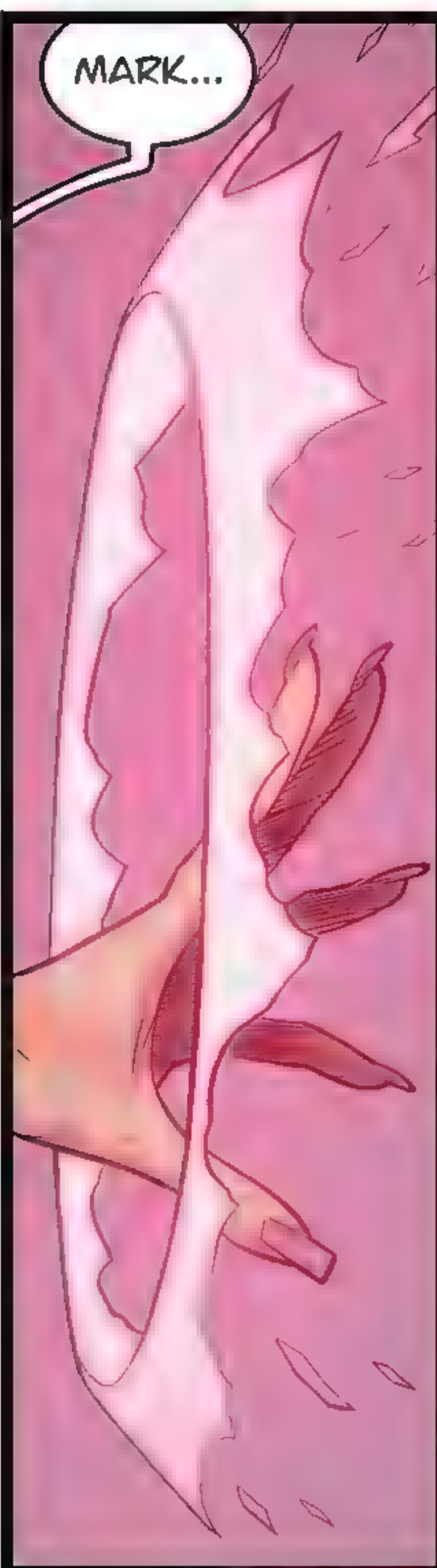
OKAY, GOOD TO KNOW.



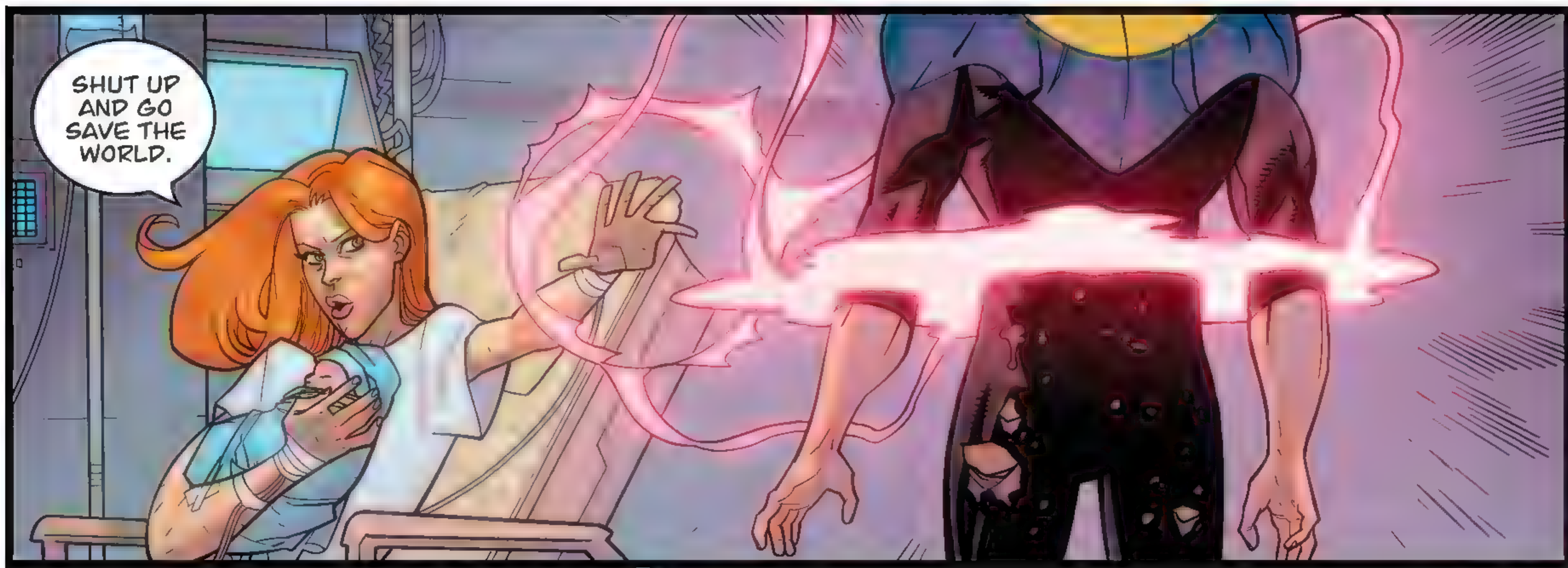
KEEP CRACKING JOKES LIKE THAT AND WE'LL **NEVER** GET BACK TOGETHER.



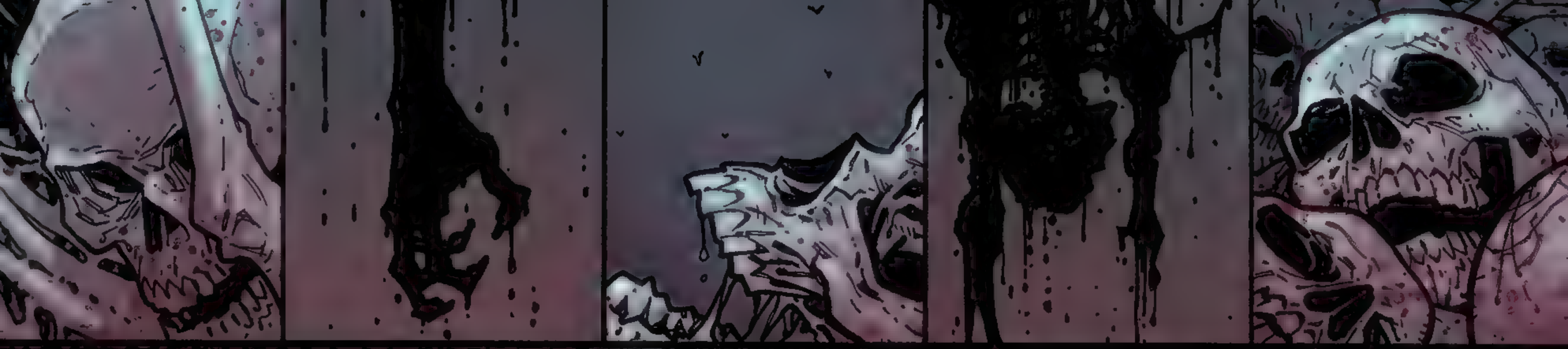
WE'RE GETTING BACK TOGETHER?



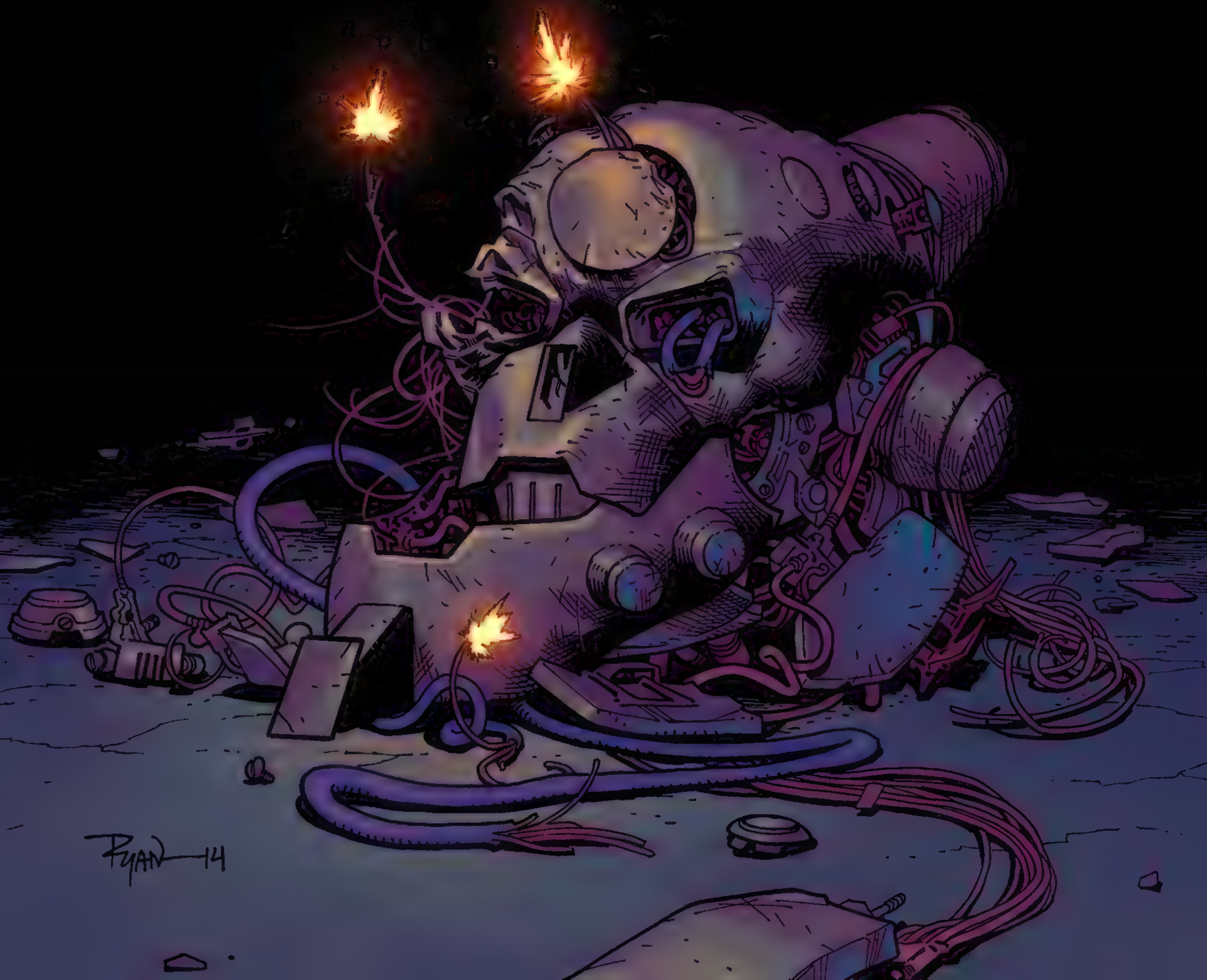
MARK...

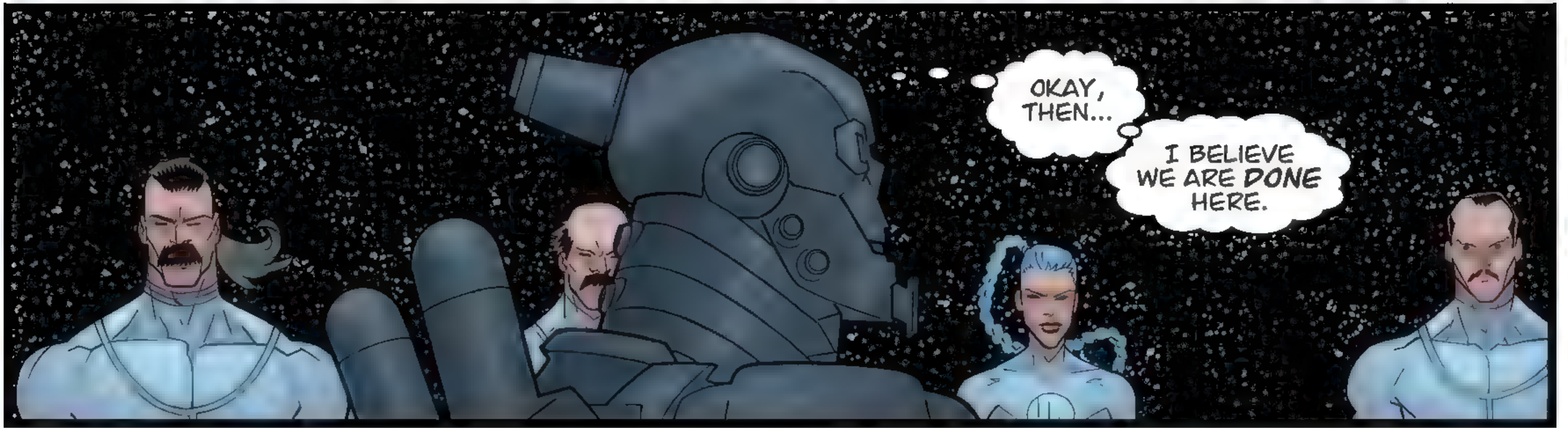




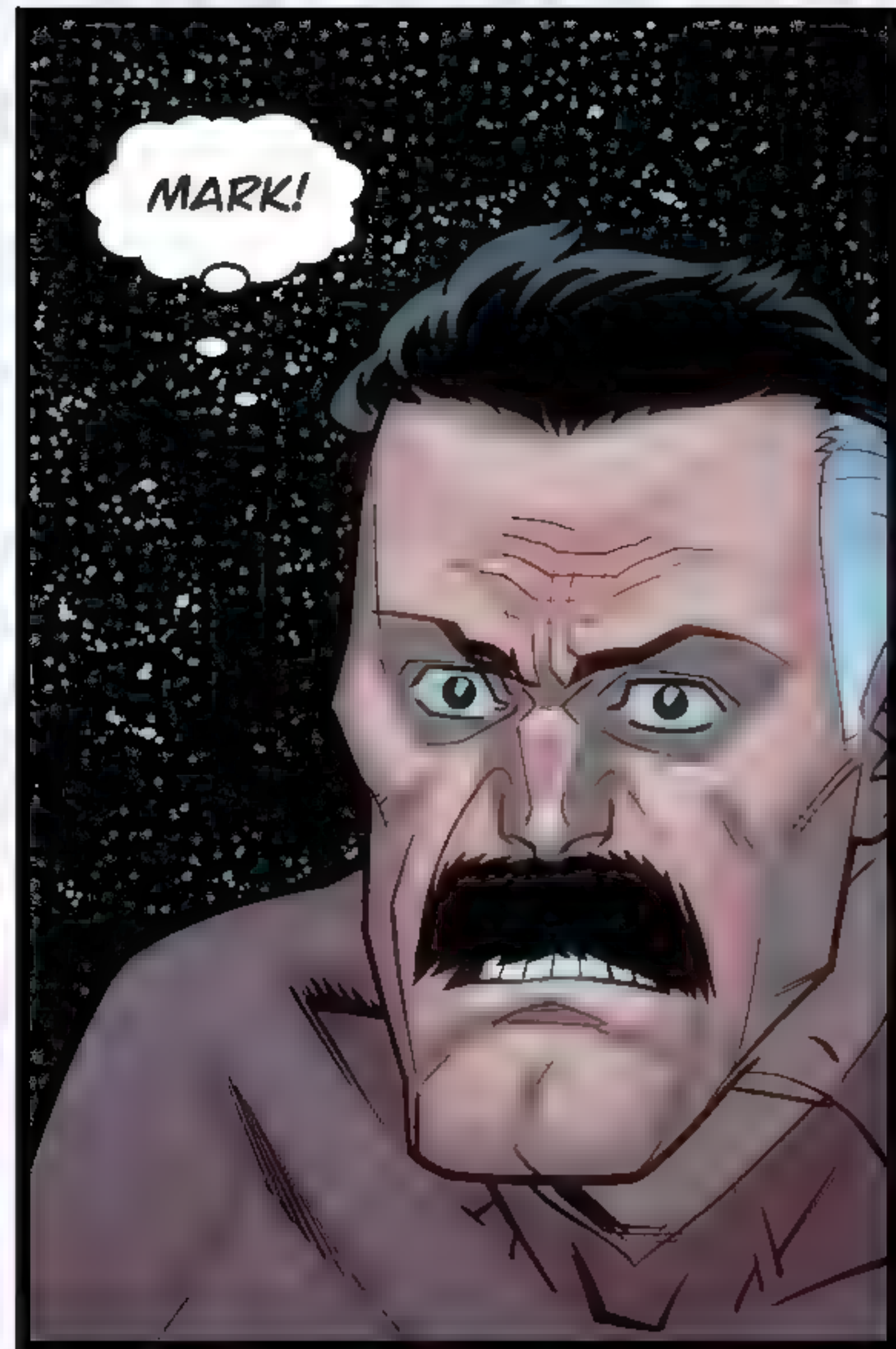


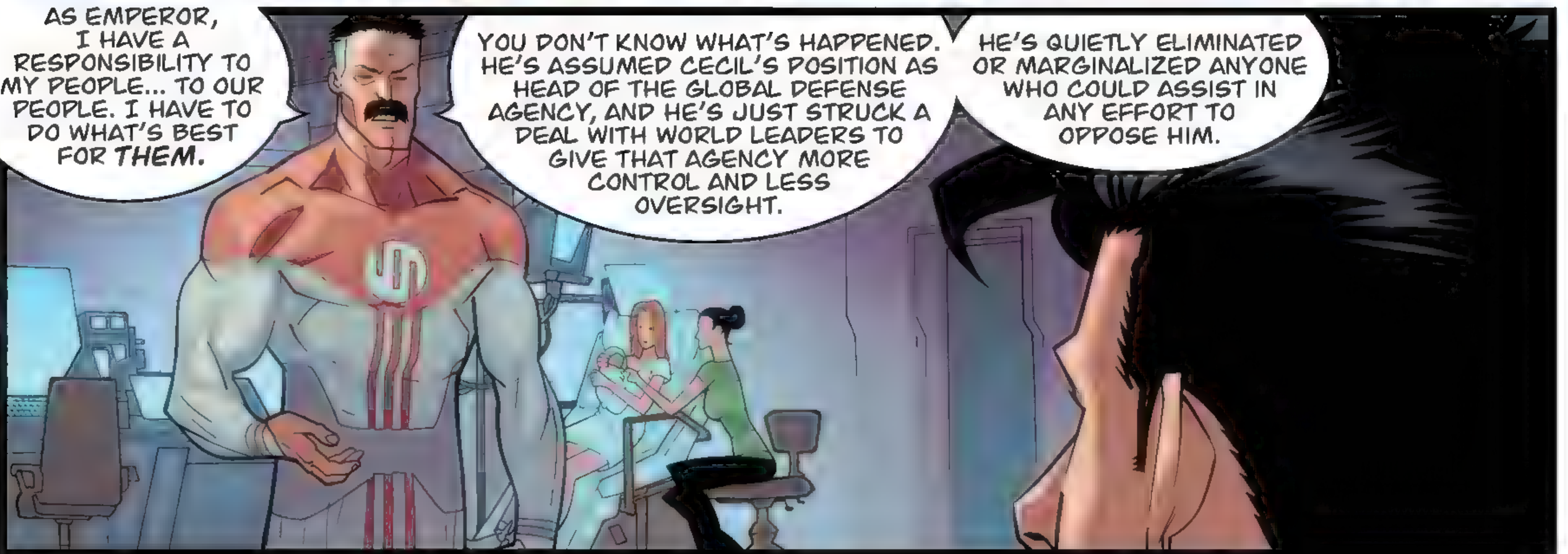
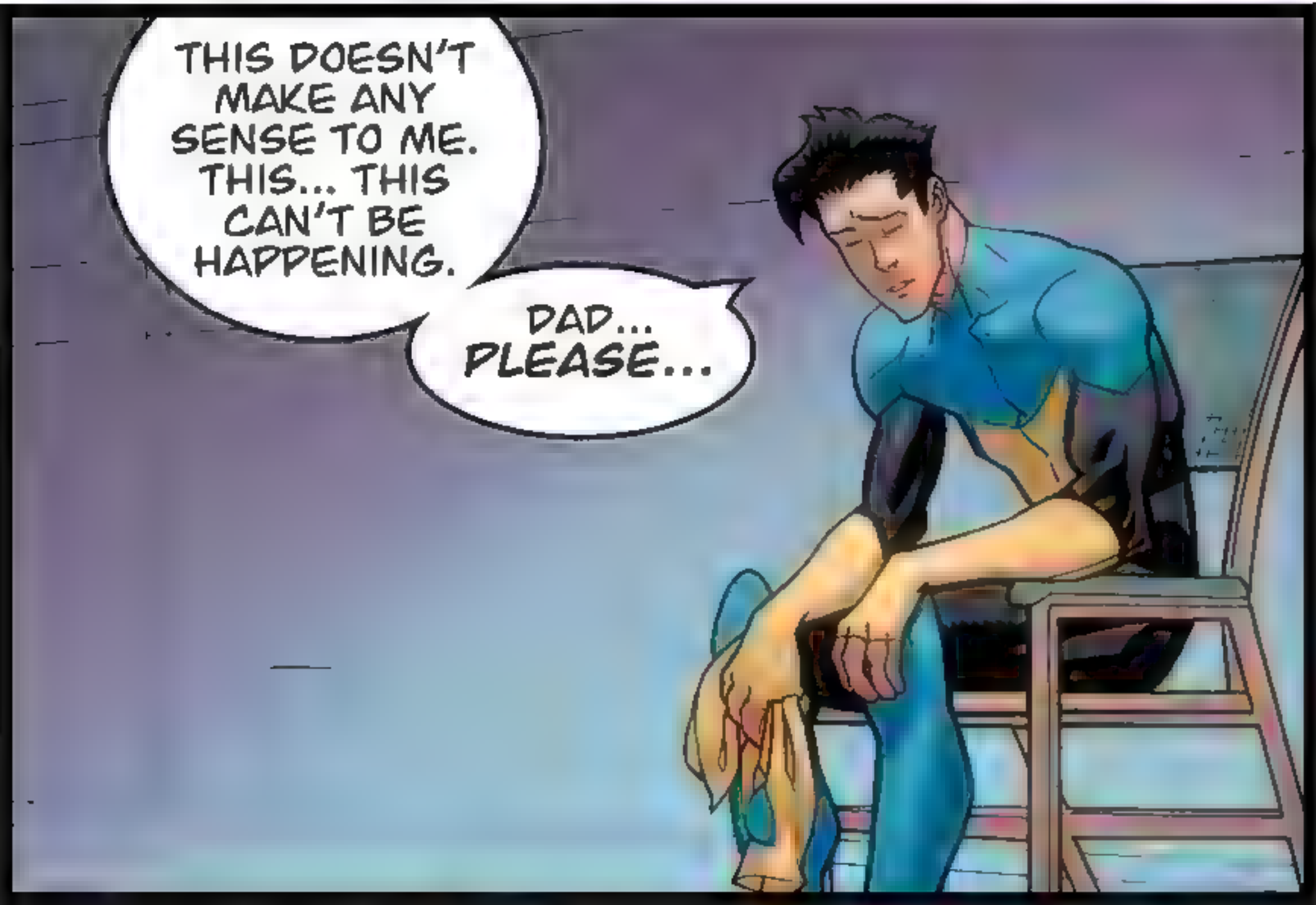
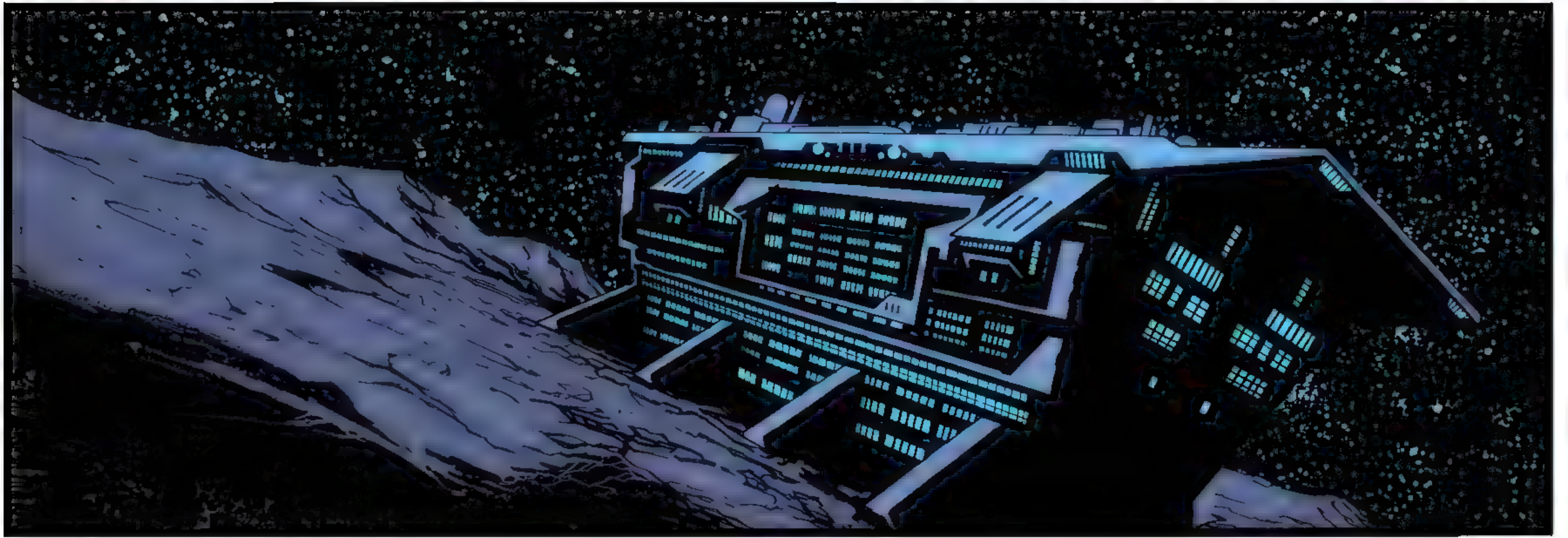
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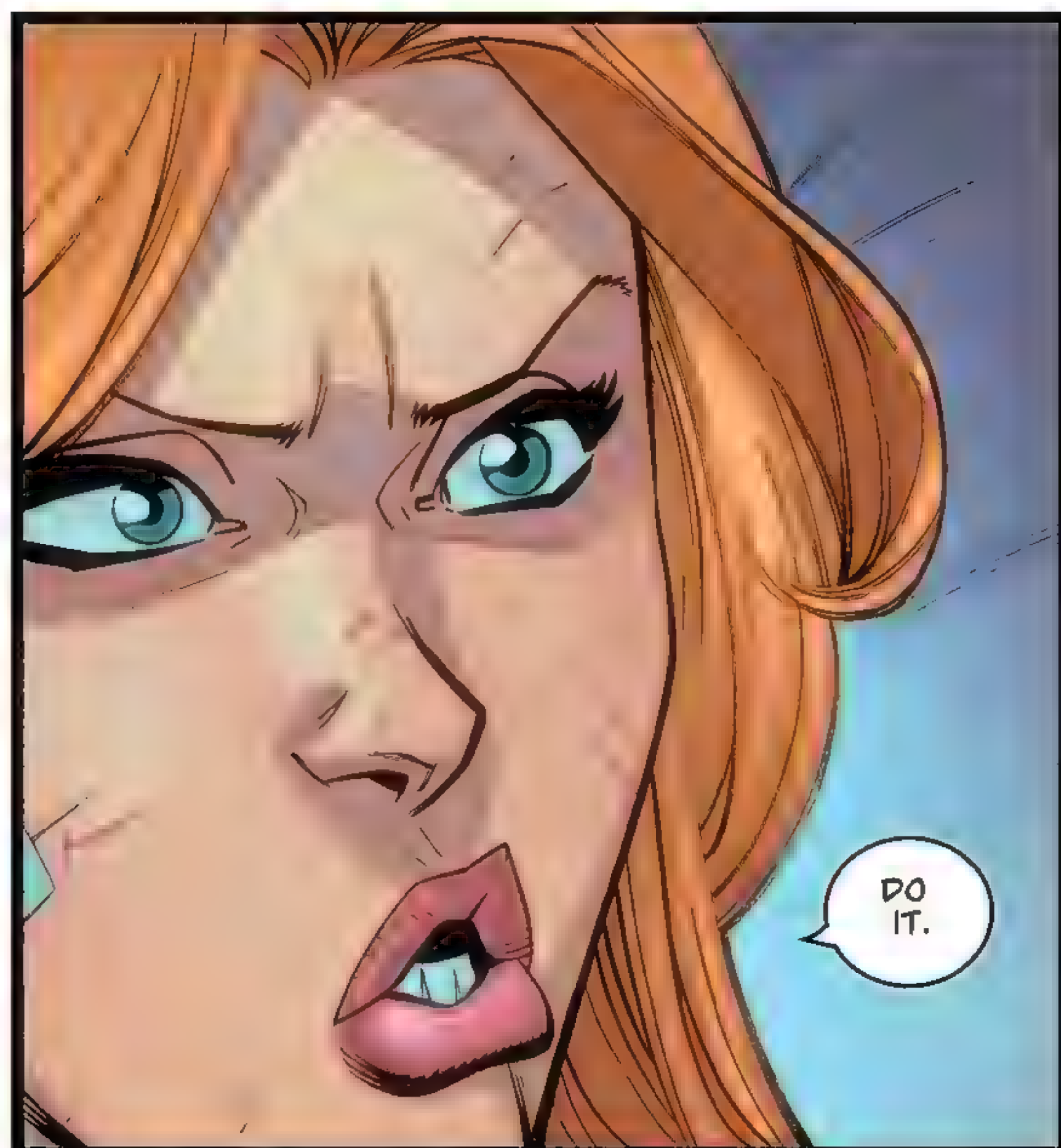
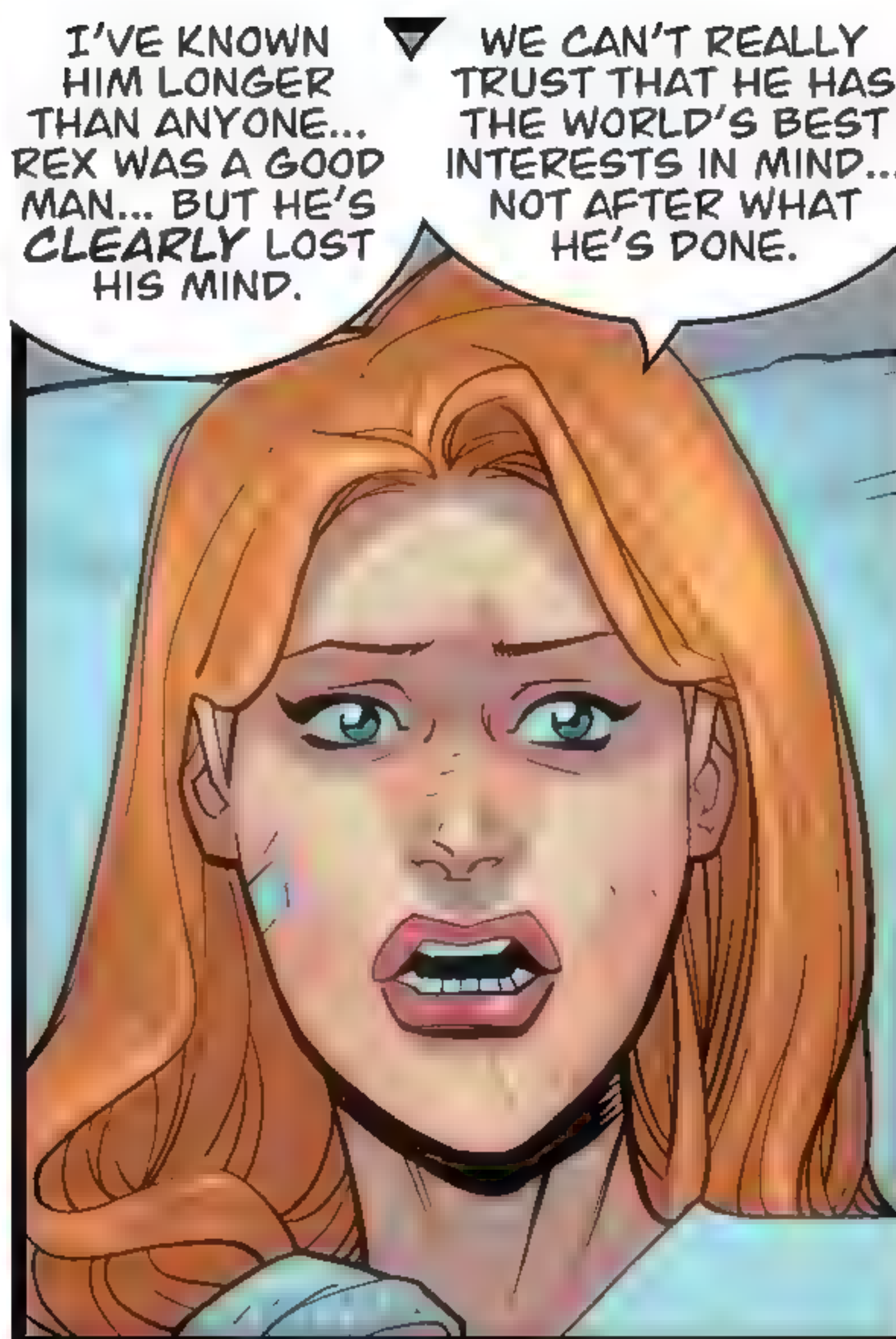
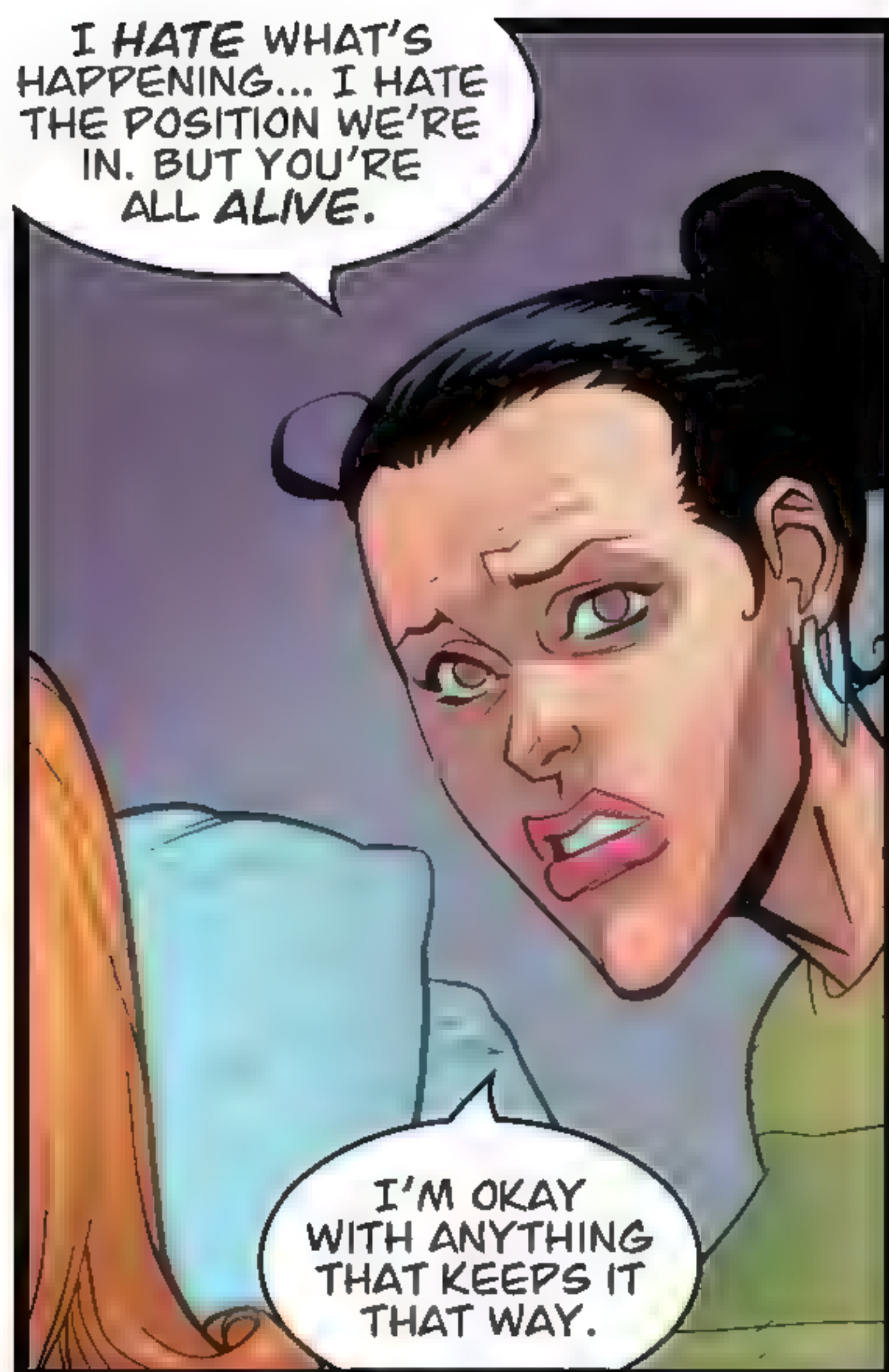




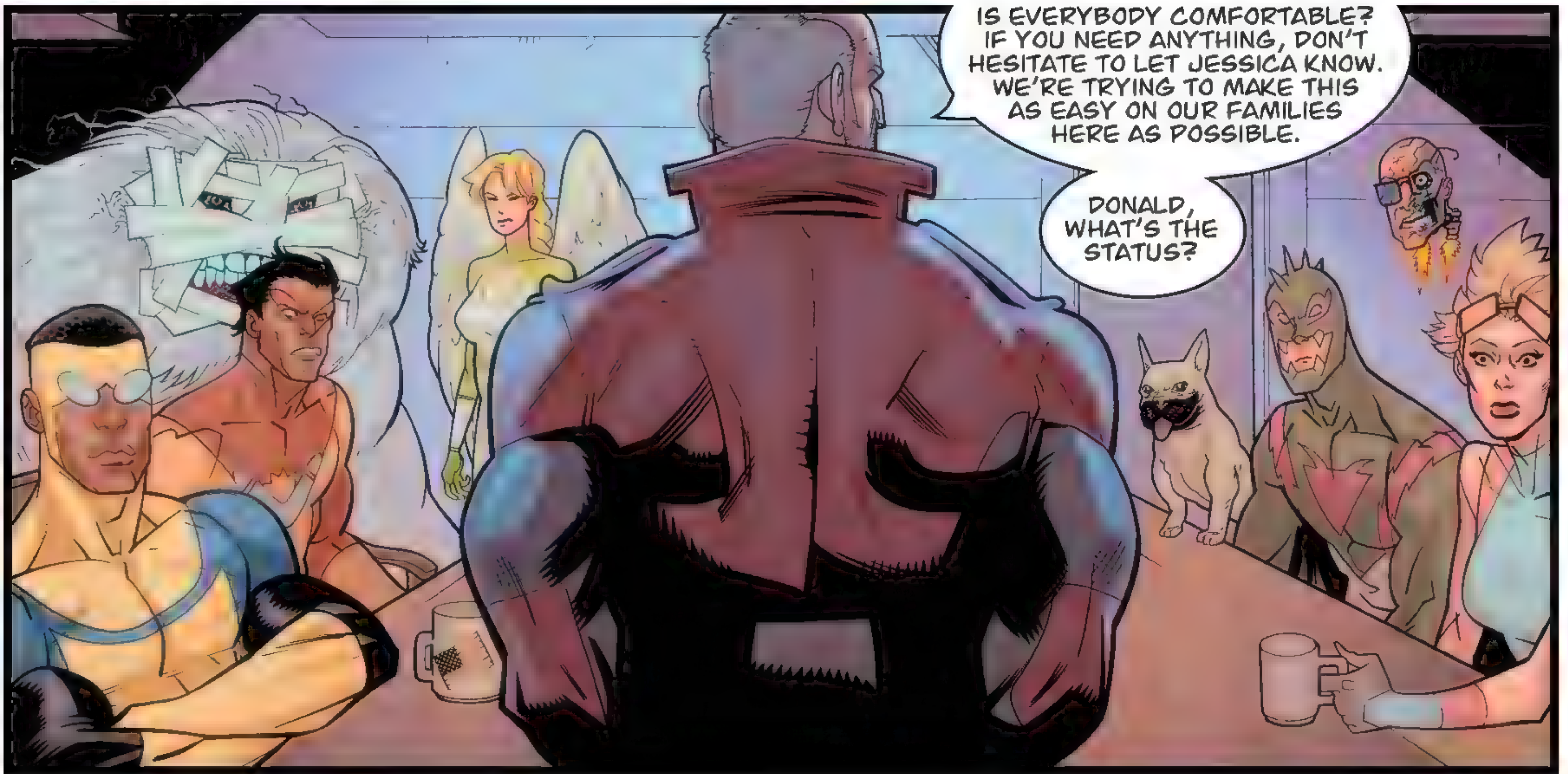






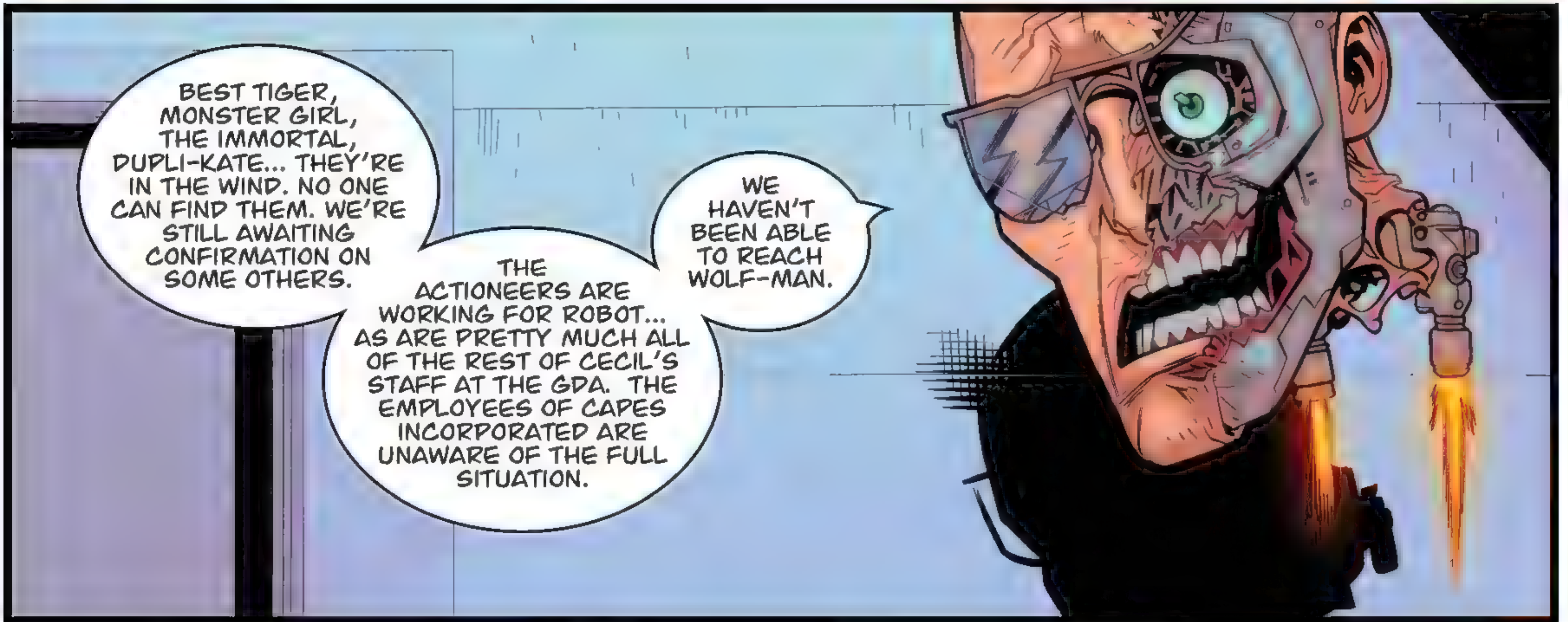






IS EVERYBODY COMFORTABLE?
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, DON'T
HESITATE TO LET JESSICA KNOW.
WE'RE TRYING TO MAKE THIS
AS EASY ON OUR FAMILIES
HERE AS POSSIBLE.

DONALD,
WHAT'S THE
STATUS?



BEST TIGER,
MONSTER GIRL,
THE IMMORTAL,
DUPLI-KATE... THEY'RE
IN THE WIND. NO ONE
CAN FIND THEM. WE'RE
STILL AWAITING
CONFIRMATION ON
SOME OTHERS.

THE
ACTIONEERS ARE
WORKING FOR ROBOT...
AS ARE PRETTY MUCH ALL
OF THE REST OF CECIL'S
STAFF AT THE GDA. THE
EMPLOYEES OF CAPES
INCORPORATED ARE
UNAWARE OF THE FULL
SITUATION.

WE
HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE
TO REACH
WOLF-MAN.



WHAT ARE WE DOING
HERE? WE'RE IN NO
SHAPE TO LAUNCH A
COUNTERATTACK.

I'M FINE.
I'LL BE AS
GOOD AS NEW
IN A COUPLE
DAYS.



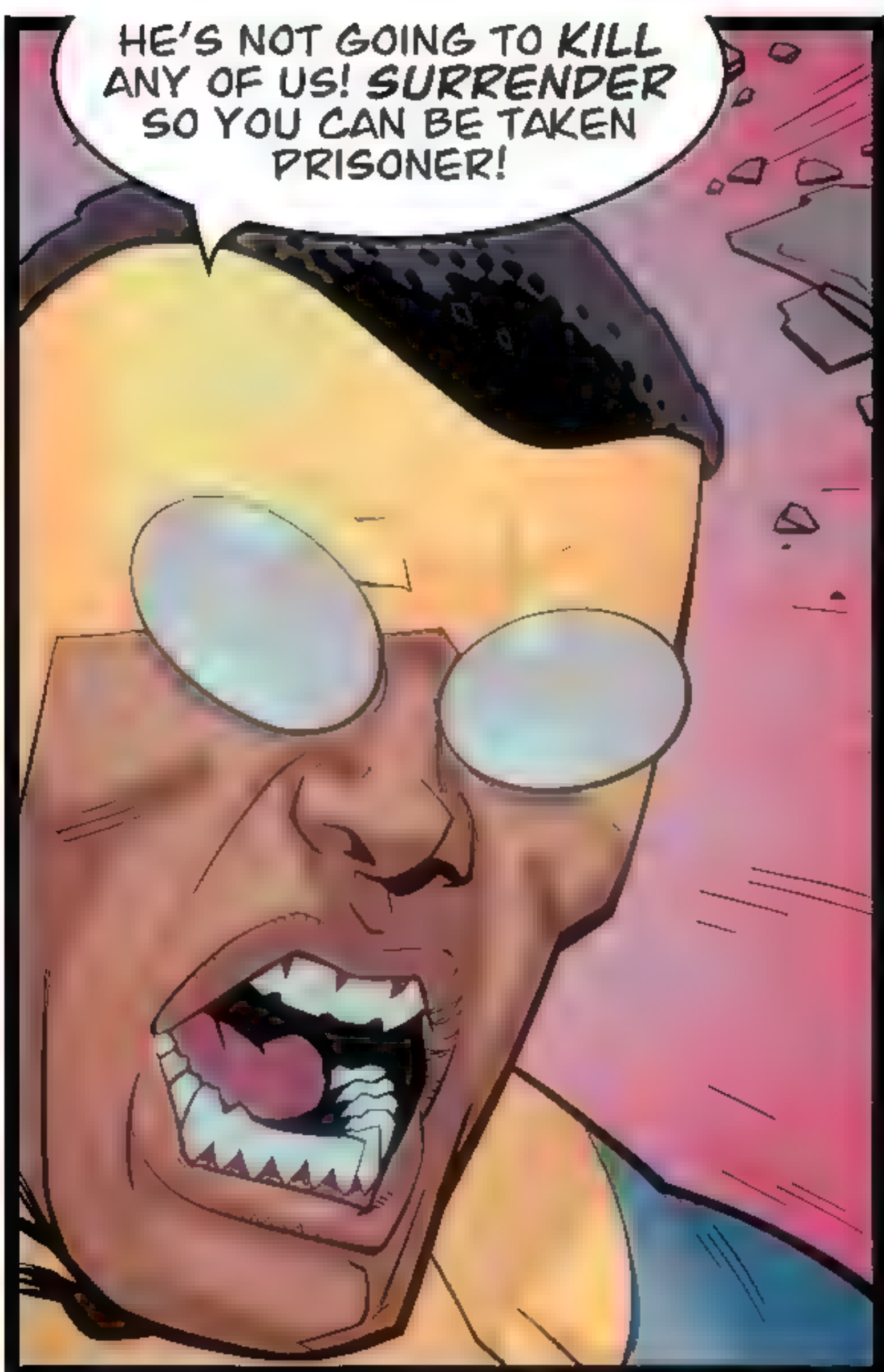
WE'RE NOT EVEN SURE
A COUNTERATTACK WOULD
BE SUCCESSFUL. WE
BARELY KNOW
WHAT WE'RE UP
AGAINST.

WE'RE GOING TO
BE SMART ABOUT IT,
BIDE OUR TIME,
ORGANIZE, ASSESS
AND PREPARE FOR
THE WAR TO
COME.



IN THE
MEANTIME,
WE'LL
BE SAFE
HERE.

CRASH!



HE'S NOT GOING TO KILL ANY OF US! SURRENDER SO YOU CAN BE TAKEN PRISONER!



SURRENDER?!

YOU DID THIS?! YOU LED HIM HERE!

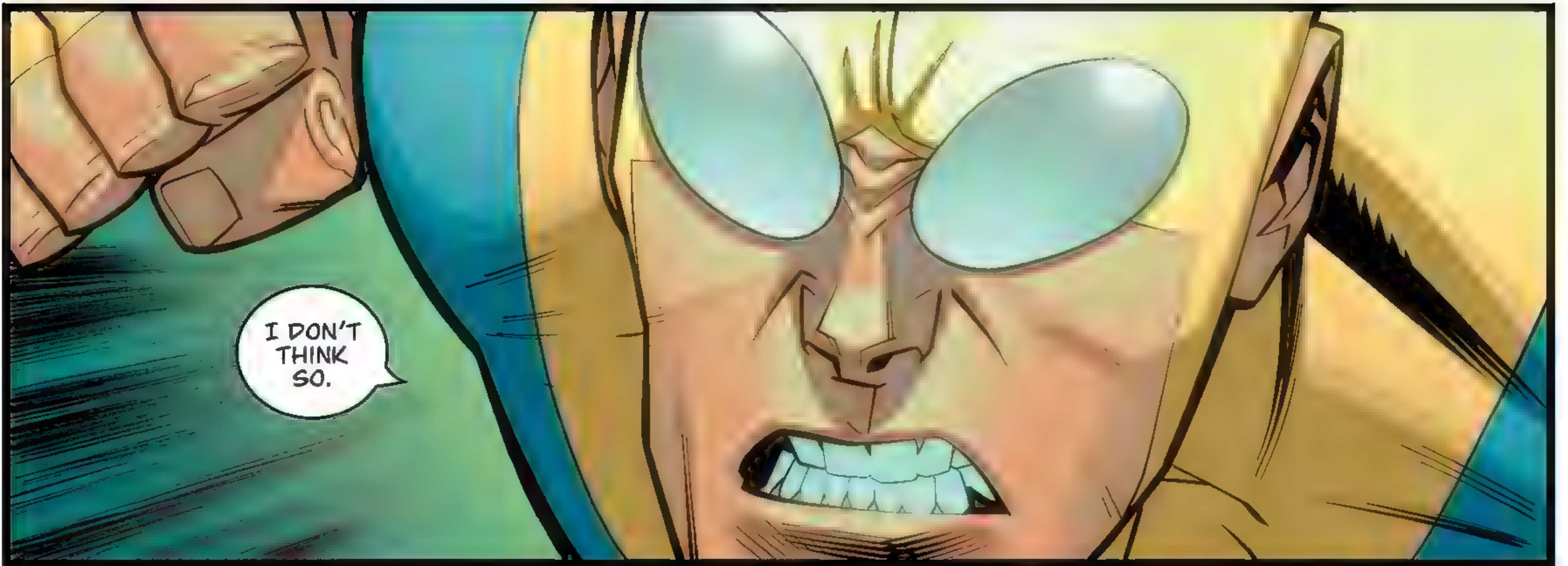


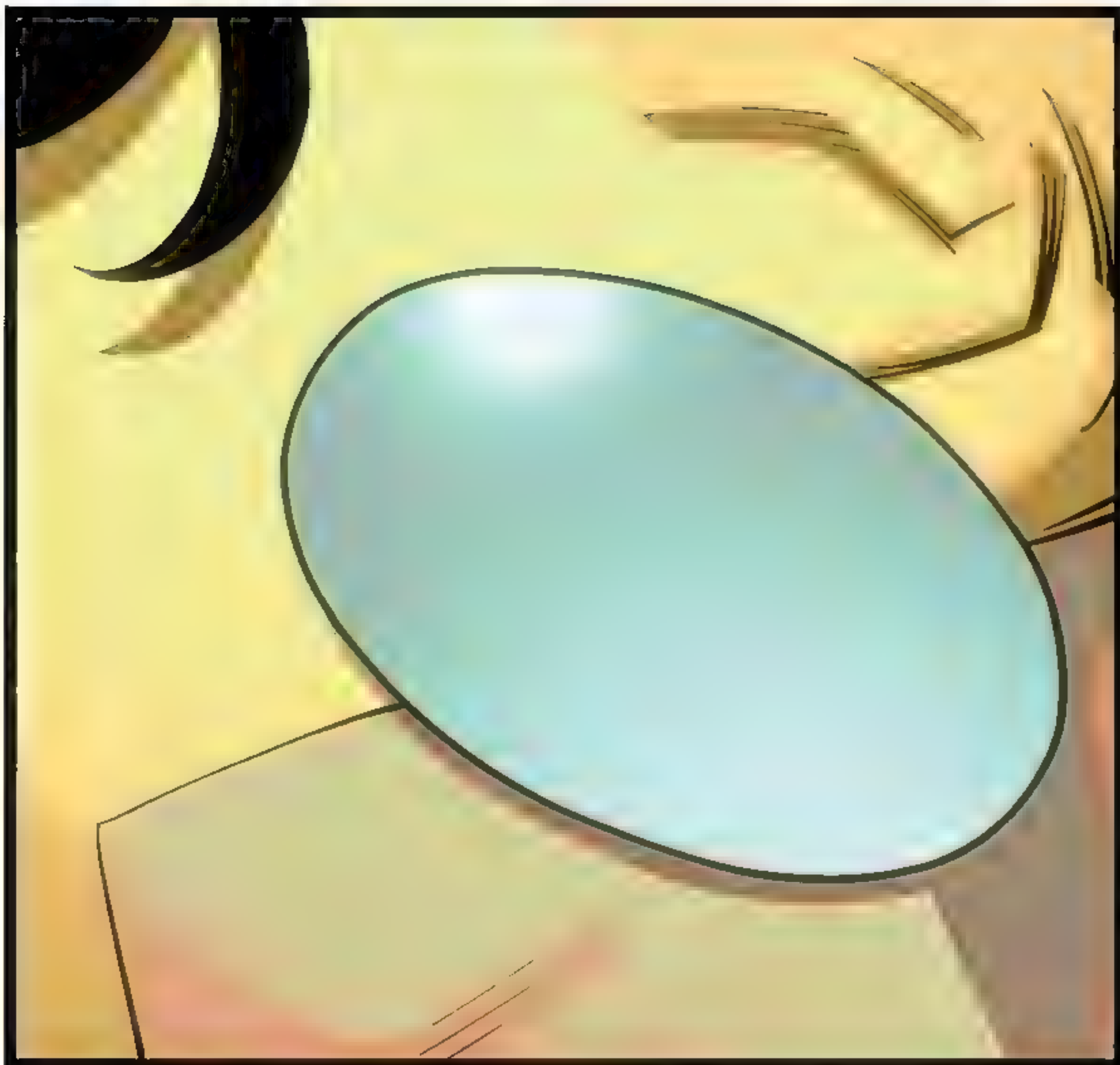
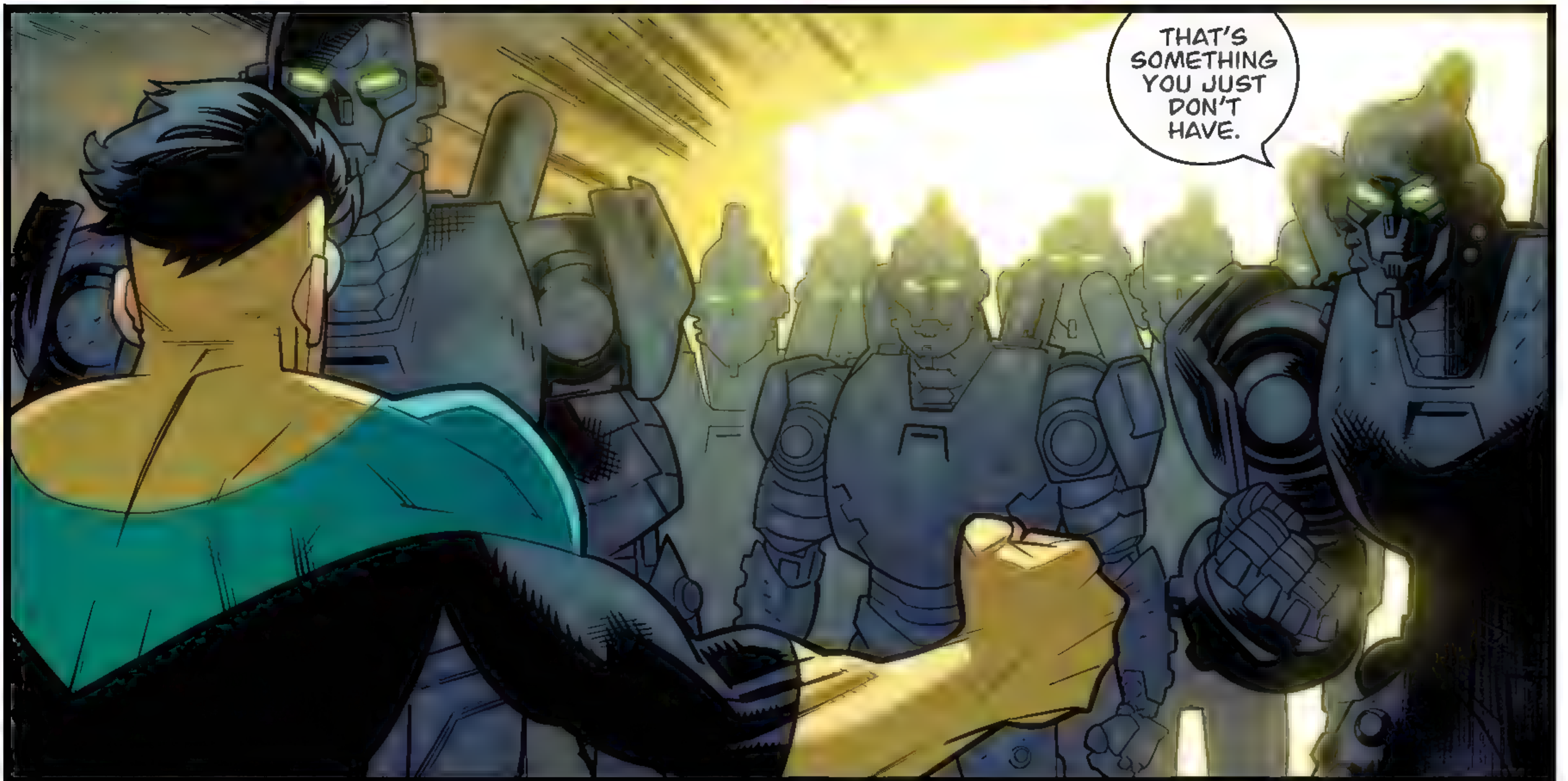
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY.

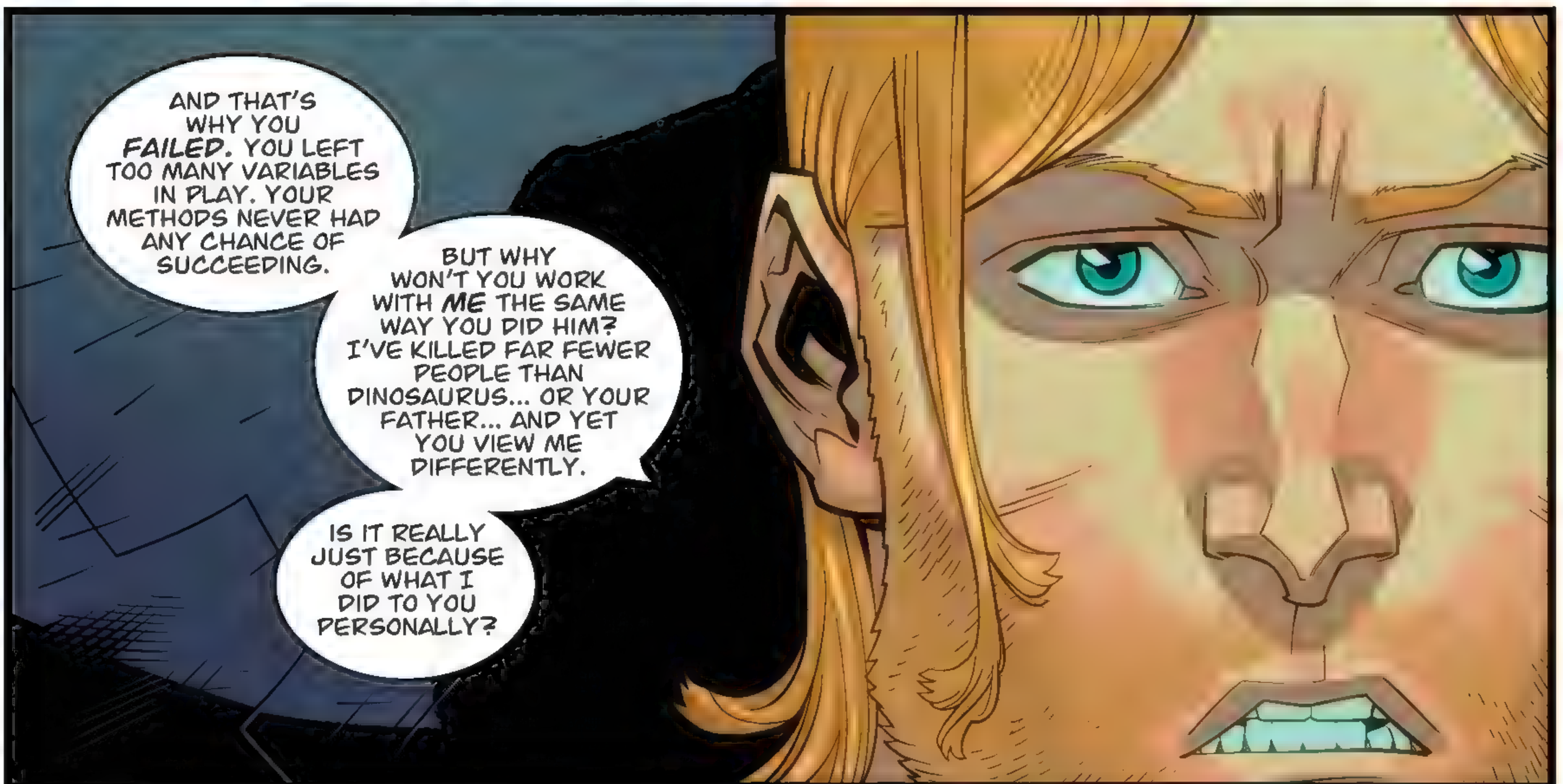
YOU'LL SEE.











TRUTH IS, I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU... COULD HAVE KILLED EVE, TOO. BUT I DIDN'T. I'M NOT A DIFFERENT PERSON SUDDENLY. I'M NOT A MONSTER. I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE I DIDN'T HAVE TO.

I DON'T WANT TO KILL YOU. I LIKE YOU. I'D SEND YOU BACK TO THAT DIMENSION IF THE MACHINE I CONSTRUCTED DIDN'T REQUIRE LINGERING ENERGY FROM ANGSTROM LEVY TO WORK.

DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT YET? SEEMS THOSE DOORWAYS DIED WITH HIM.



THIS MADNESS? MARK, I'VE ASSUMED CONTROL OF OVER ONE HUNDRED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WORLDWIDE.

IN THE SIX HOURS SINCE THAT HAPPENED, I'VE PREVENTED OVER NINE THOUSAND DEATHS. I'VE ALREADY PUT SYSTEMS INTO PLACE THAT ARE CHANGING THE WAY CRIME IS FOUGHT.

I'VE ALREADY INCARCERATED TITAN, SLAYING MANTIS, MAULER AND EMBRACE... CRIMINALS WHO'D BEEN AT LARGE FOR MONTHS.

STOPPING "THIS MADNESS" WOULD COST LIVES... NOT SAVE THEM.

SO I ASK YOU... WHAT ARE YOU FIGHTING AGAINST?



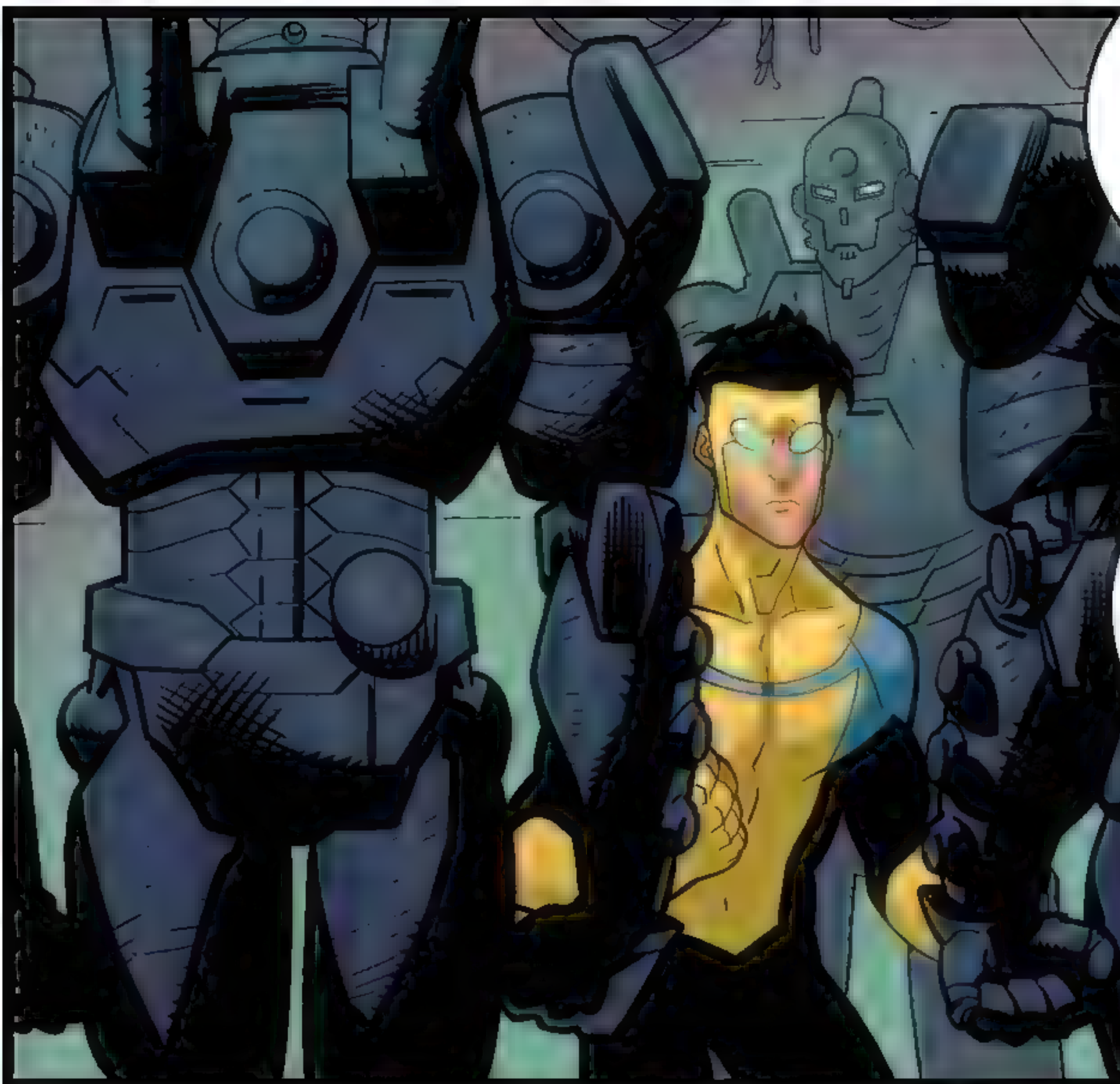


I'M FIGHTING A CRAZY PERSON TRYING TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.



TAKE OVER THE... DON'T BE SO CHILDISH.

I'VE ASSUMED CONTROL... AND THAT CONTROL WILL EXPAND AS NEEDED, TRUE. BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHAT I'VE DONE.



THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, THEY'LL ONLY EVER SEE AN **IMPROVEMENT** IN THEIR LIVES. THEY'LL SEE A SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE... AND THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS.

NOTHING MORE.

I WON'T PUT A FACE ON THOSE DIFFERENCES. THERE WON'T BE ANY ONE PERSON TO RECEIVE BLAME OR CREDIT.



IN A WAY, I'VE **IMPROVED** ON WHAT I DID IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION.

I'M FIXING THINGS FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN.



IF YOU SOMEHOW FOUGHT AND KILLED ME... YOU'D BE **EXECUTED** FOR WHAT YOU'D DONE.

I'M THE **GOOD GUY** HERE, MARK. IF THAT'S THE SIMPLIFIED WAY YOU WANT TO LOOK AT THINGS.



YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS? IT'S **NEW**.

IT'S A NEW WAY OF DOING THINGS, OF FIGHTING EVIL, OF SAVING THE WORLD. AND IT'S MESSY AND IT'S IMPERFECT, BUT IT'S EFFECTIVE.

BUT MOST OF ALL... IT'S **NEW**.



DON'T
BE SCARED
OF THE
NEW.

EMBRACE
IT. WELCOME
IT. ACCEPT
IT.

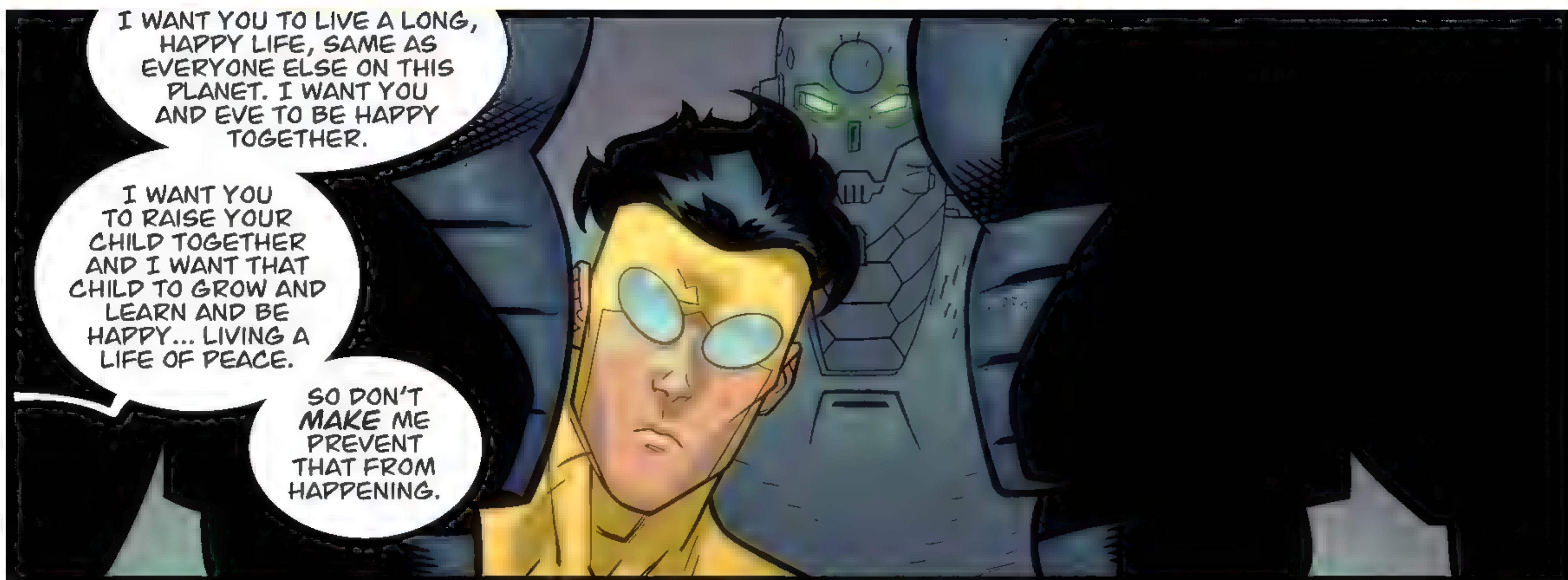
BUT
MORE THAN
ANYTHING
ELSE...



DON'T
MAKE
ME KILL
YOU.

PLEASE.
I'M BEGGING
YOU, MARK.
DON'T MAKE
ME.

I DON'T
WANT TO.



I WANT YOU TO LIVE A LONG,
HAPPY LIFE, SAME AS
EVERYONE ELSE ON THIS
PLANET. I WANT YOU
AND EVE TO BE HAPPY
TOGETHER.

I WANT YOU
TO RAISE YOUR
CHILD TOGETHER
AND I WANT THAT
CHILD TO GROW AND
LEARN AND BE
HAPPY... LIVING A
LIFE OF PEACE.

SO DON'T
MAKE ME
PREVENT
THAT FROM
HAPPENING.

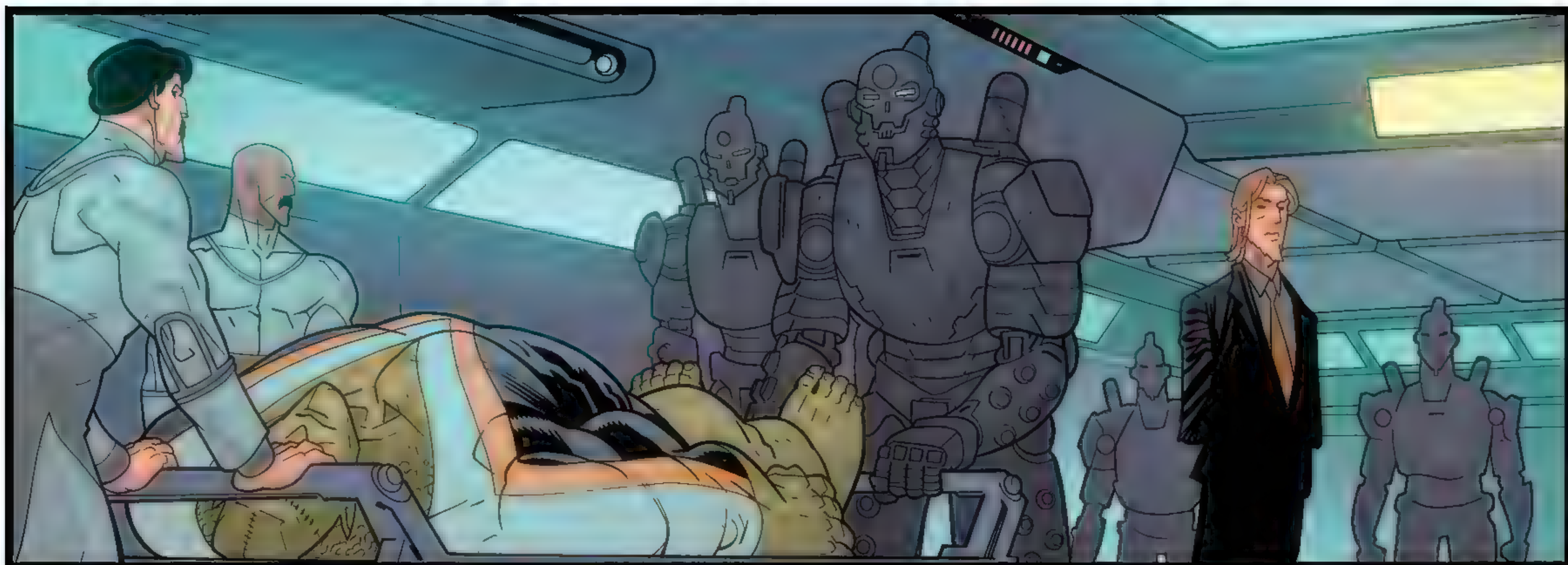


WHAT YOU
DO NEXT
DECIDES
WHAT YOUR
FUTURE IS.

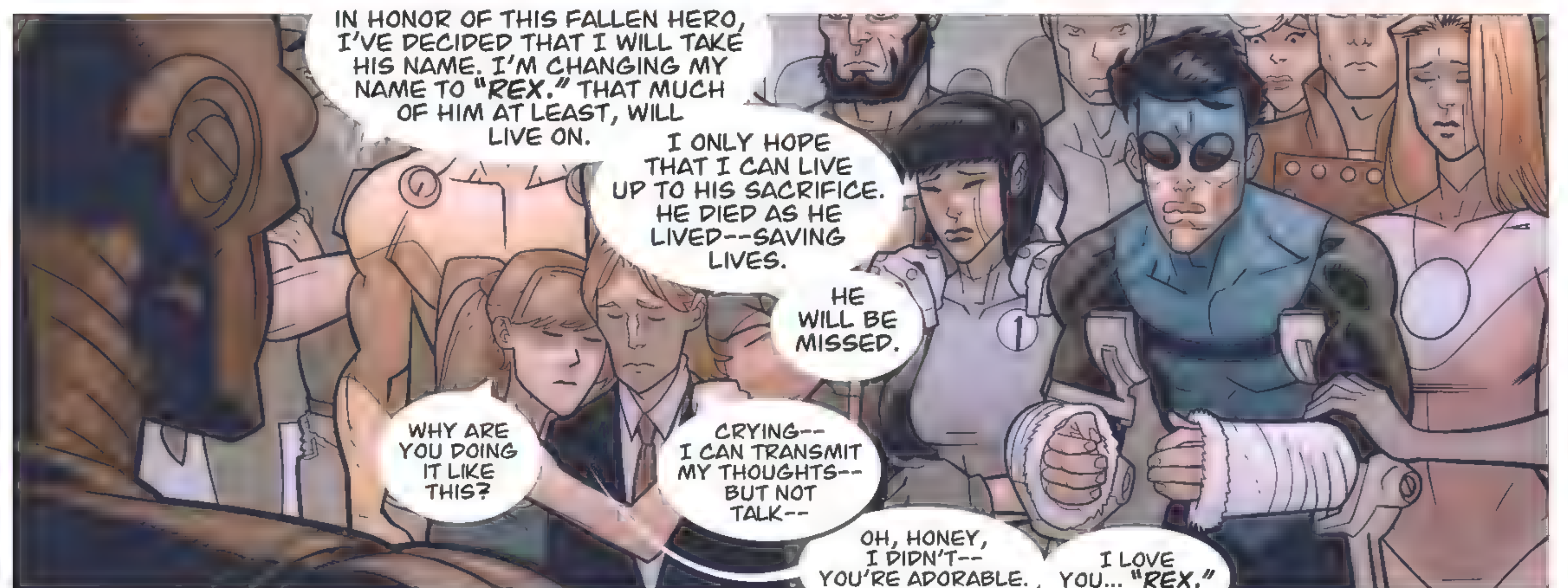
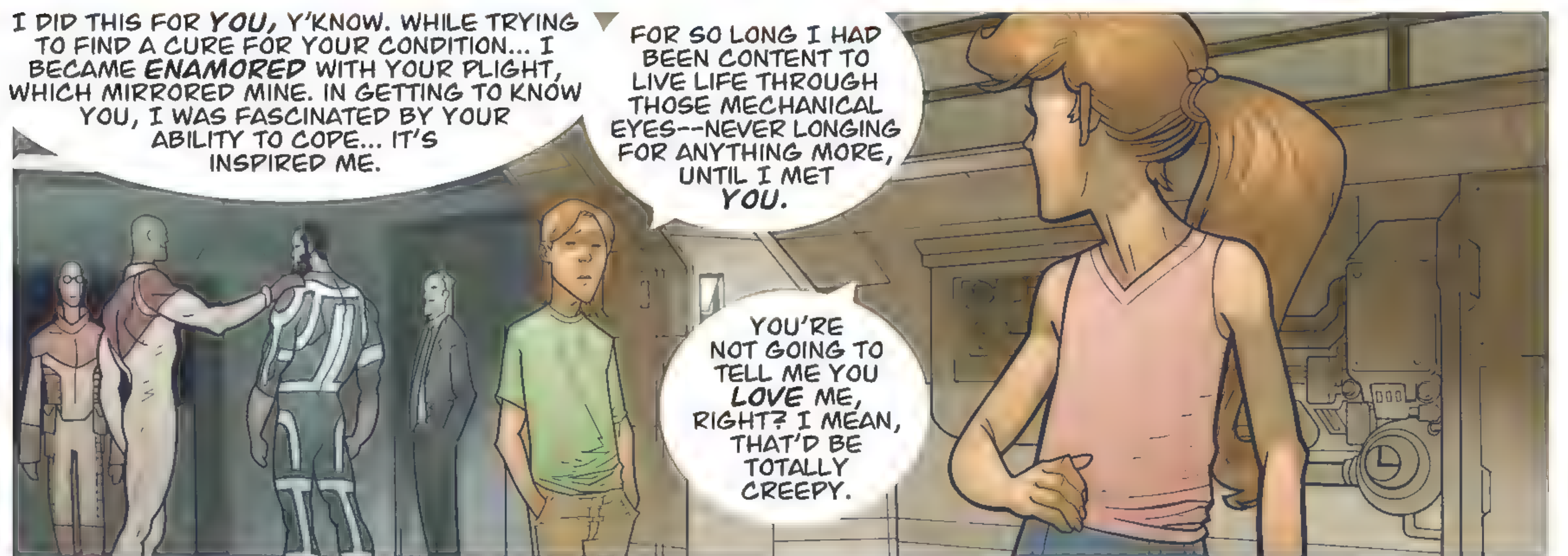
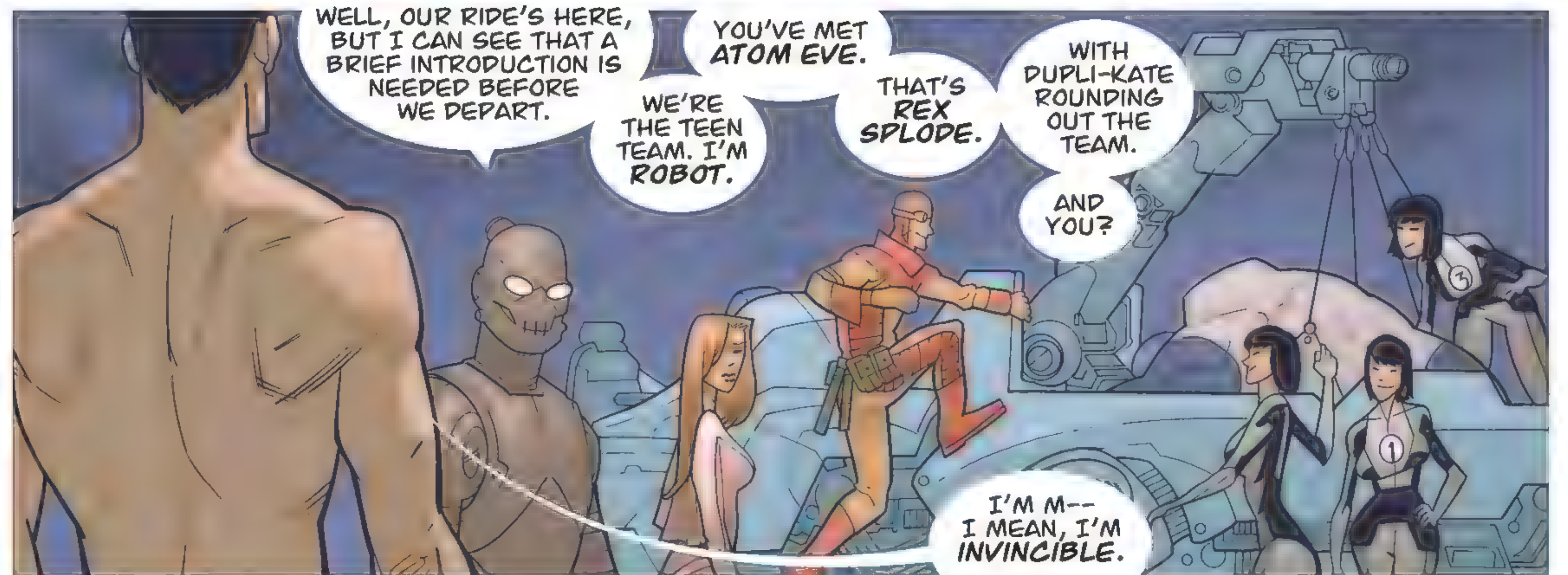
SO...

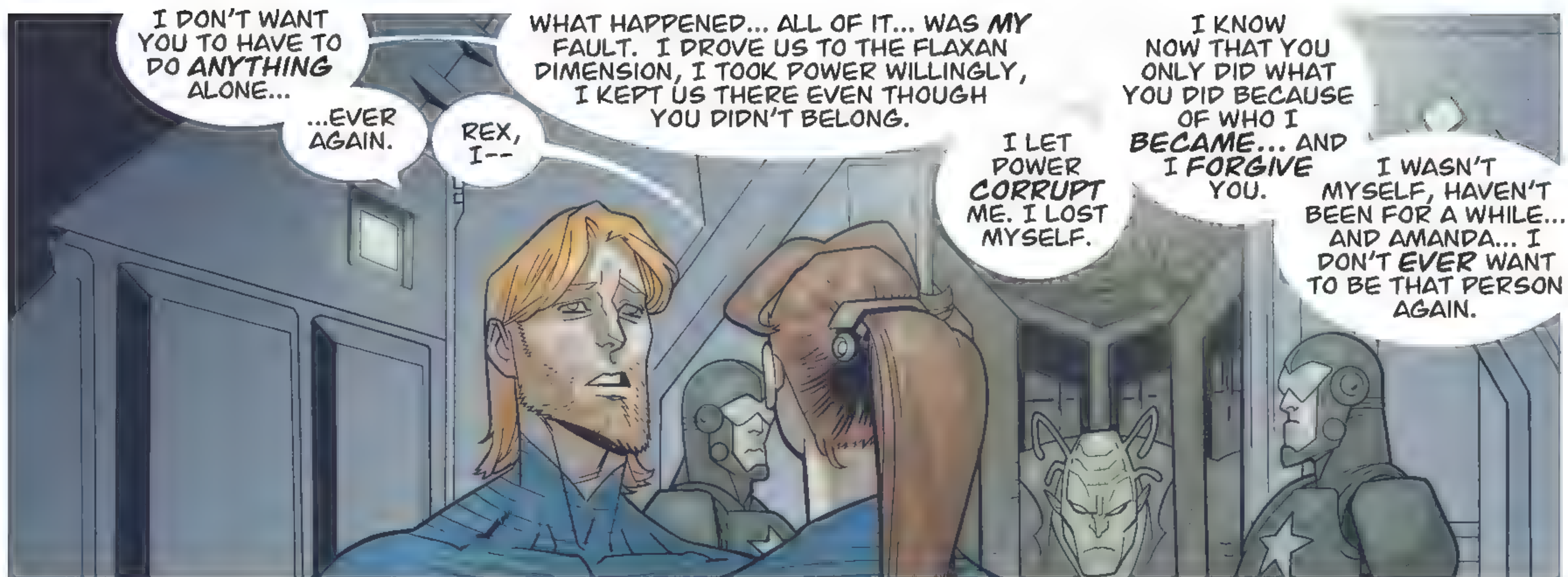


...WHAT'S
IT GOING
TO BE?











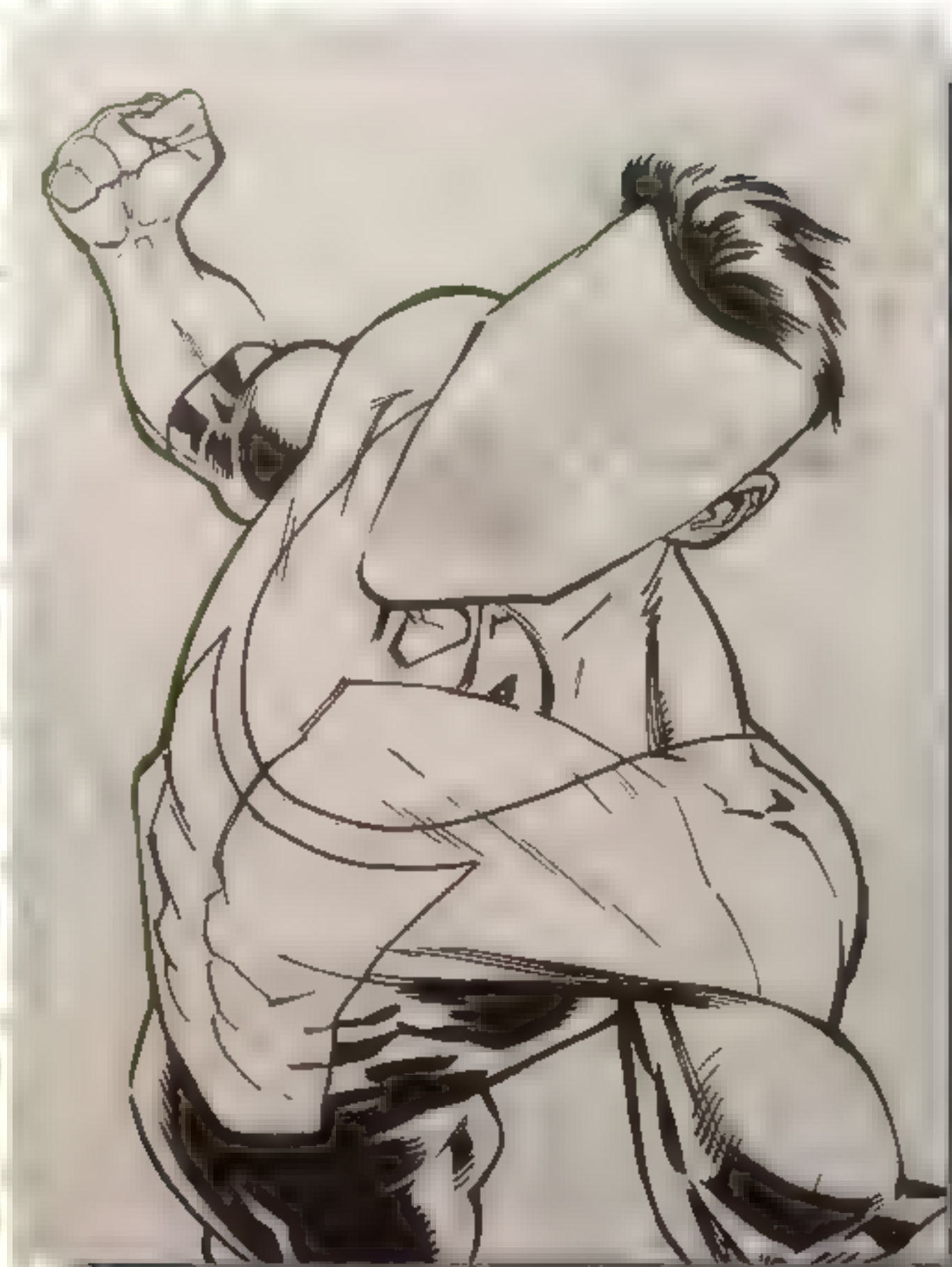
SKETCHBOOK

RYAN OTTLEY: *Whoa, wait a minute. 20 trade paperbacks? Are you serious? Robert, why are we so awesome?*

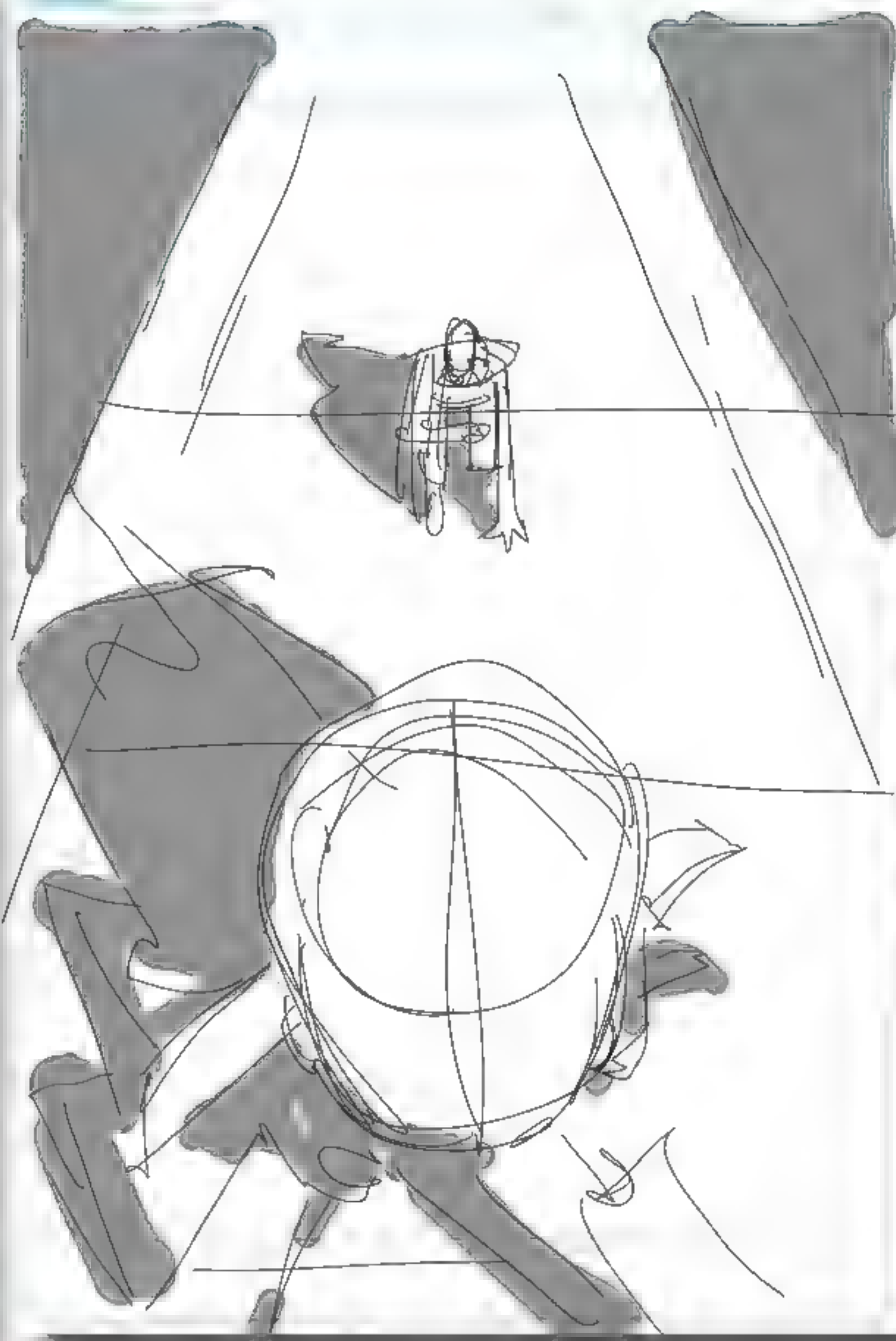
ROBERT KIRKMAN: I believe it has something to do with the amount of Wheaties we collectively eat. But I could be wrong about that. We are pretty damn awesome, though. I can't wait until we get to volume 50. That'll be RIDICULOUS! VOLUME 50!

RYAN: *If you follow me on social media you've probably seen some of these shots of this TPB cover. While drawing this I posted progress shots so people can see a little of my process. Digital layouts, pencils, then inks!*

ROBERT: Oh, yeah... definitely follow Ryan on social media. You can see how bitter he is about all kinds of different topics, and every now and then he posts art. Don't follow me on Twitter or anything... all I do is plug various projects and post pictures of Andrew Lincoln's feet... it's all pretty dull.







RYAN: This cover to 109 took a few tries to get right. Loved drawing this gnarly baby again. SO cute.

ROBERT: Gotta love the original Robot. I think the coolest aspect of this series is that... nearly 100 issues later, we can bring things like this back. Troll Robot might not have ever been seen again... and then BAM, he shows up. That's a lot of fun for us, and hopefully, the readers as well.

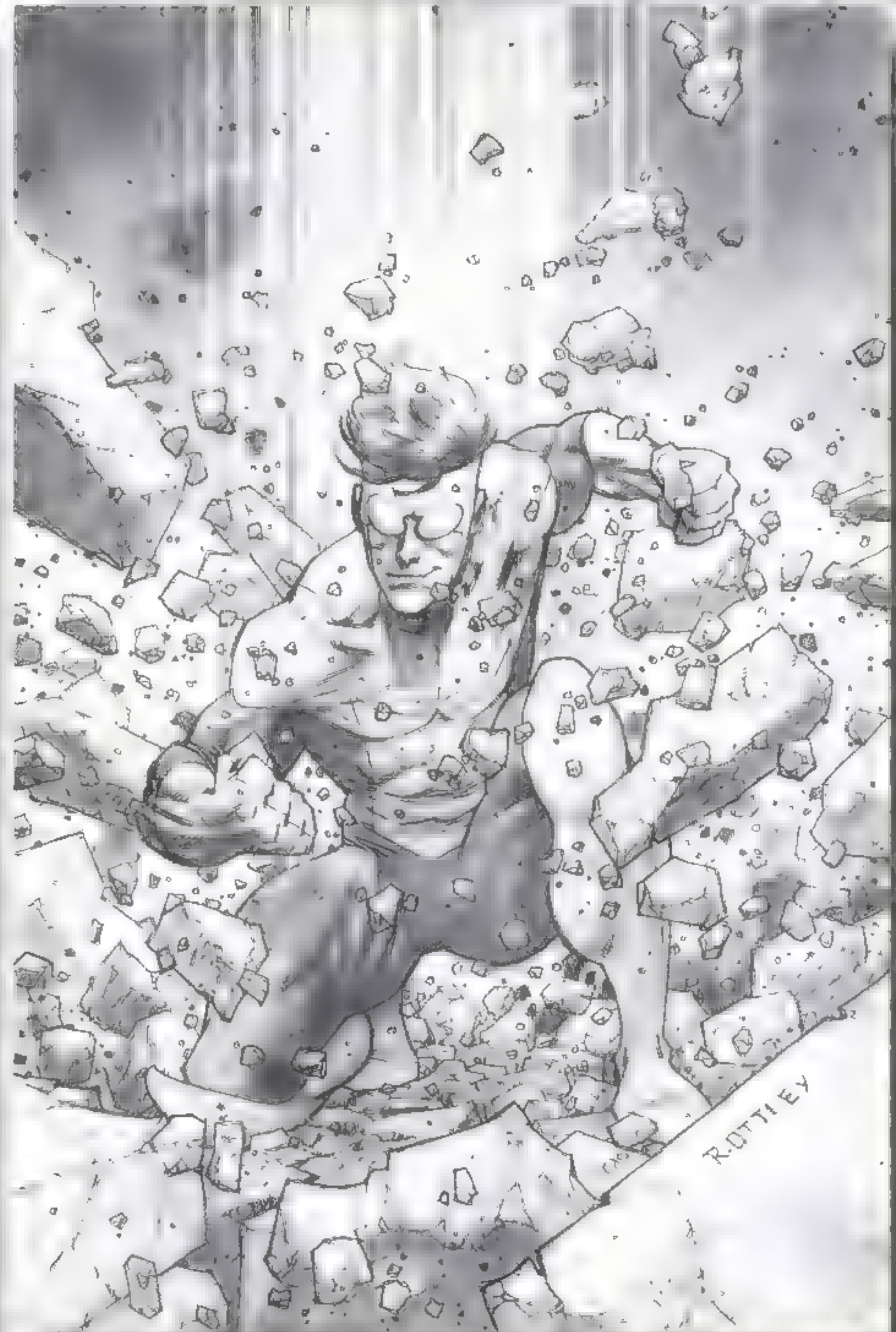
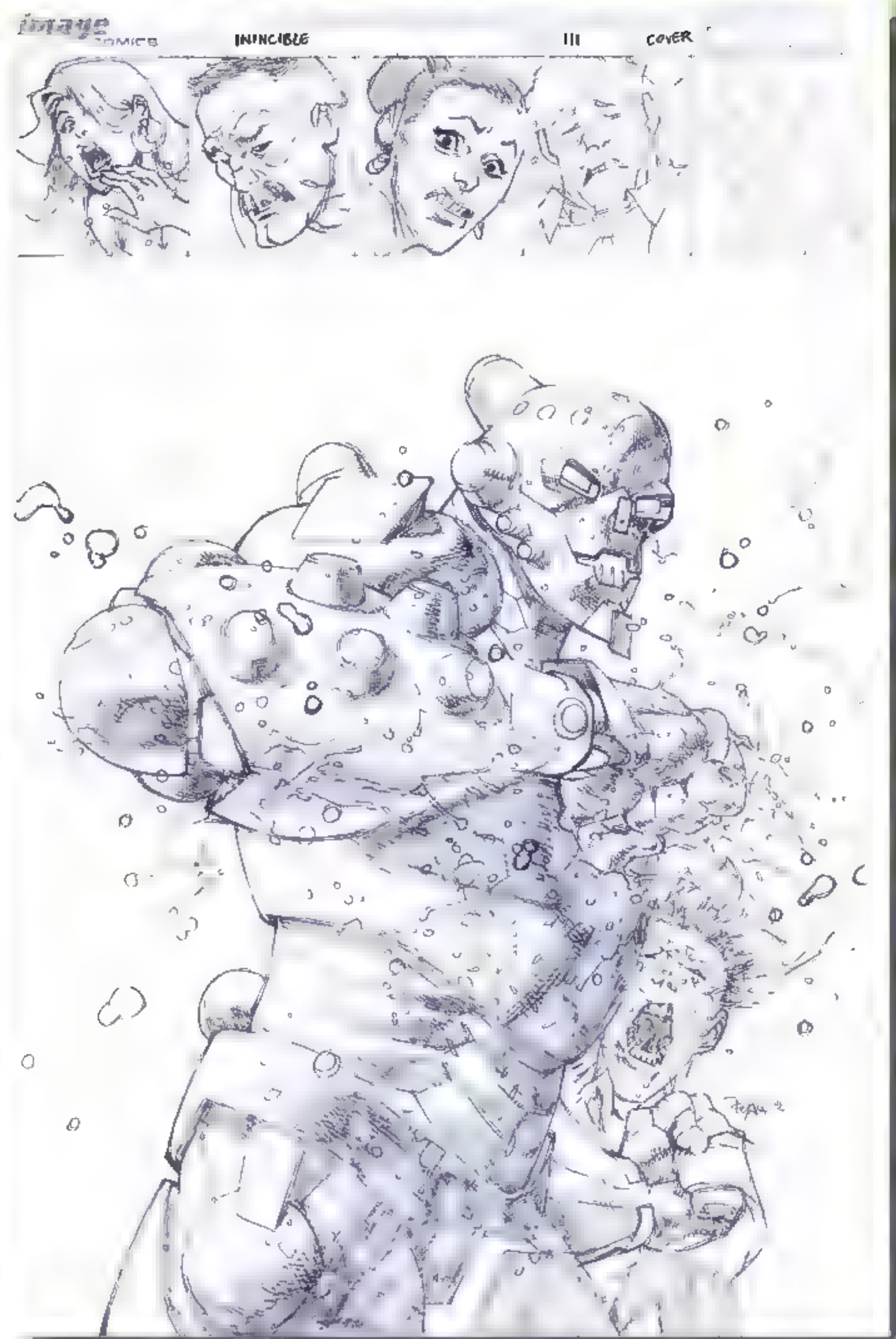




RYAN: *It's always a joy when Robert asks me to draw a simple quick cover like this one. Two hands, that's it! I draw TONS of stuff, and I love drawing giant crazy scenes, but to bust out a cover in a couple hours can be pretty refreshing at times and a most needed break. Like when Robert asks for a double-page spread of a dude's head. That's when I feel our relationship flourishes. Then he asks for a ten-panel page with 50 figures fighting in each one and that's when other writers start to look more attractive. (Just playin', Robert, you know I only have eyes for your writing!)*

ROBERT: You should have quit while you were ahead. I might have never written another 10 panel page with 50 figures in each panel. You blew it, man. Wait until you see the script for issue 125.



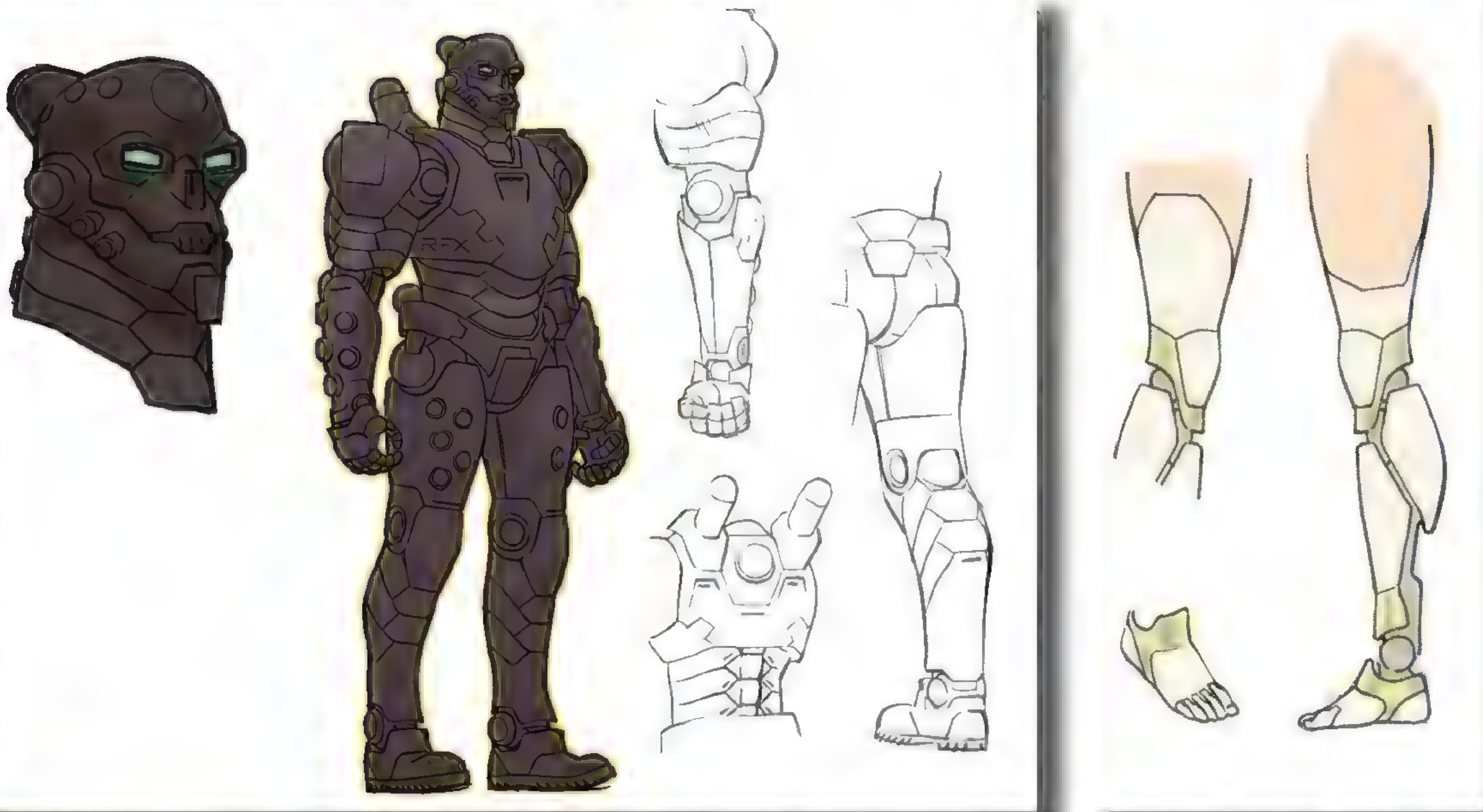


RYAN: So issue 111, that's my 100th issue of *INVINCIBLE*. I never thought I'd stay on a book for this long. But I couldn't help it. I love *INVINCIBLE*!

ROBERT: What do I have to do to get rid of you? Oh, well... I guess I'll write more 10 panel pages with 50 figures in each panel.

RYAN: The pencil variant to 111 was done because Sean and Robert asked me to do a variant to celebrate me doing 100 issues. Which is a funny way to celebrate. "Hey, no breaks, draw MORE to celebrate you drawing 100 issues!" But seriously, I didn't mind. It's pretty nice when they ask me to draw whatever I want. I figured I'd make the cover all pencil only. I thought that'd be neat and something we haven't done for the series before. So, to you fans, thanks for reading the book! I'm pretty lucky I can make a living out of drawing pictures, and at the same time it's pictures I WANT to draw and have tons of freedom doing it. And Robert, thanks for writing awesome things for me to draw. Keep doing that!

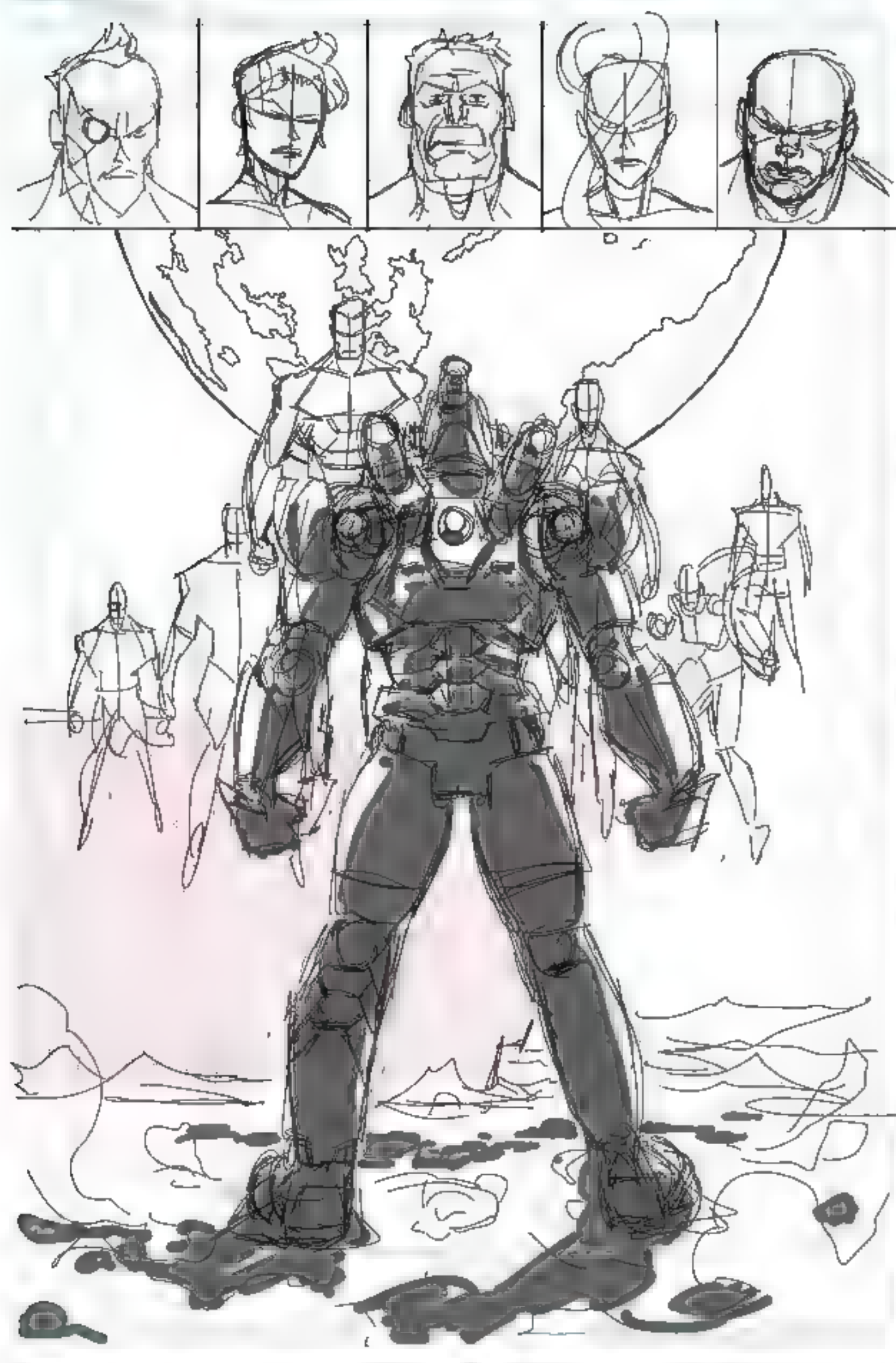
ROBERT: Stop being so positive. It sounds like I didn't like what you wrote and rewrote it all to sound more positive. No one is that happy, Ryan. No one. That said... I'm glad you've enjoyed your 100 issues as much as I have. You're the best! And really handsome, too.



RYAN: *There's not much else in the world that's more fun to draw than cyborgs being beat to pieces! Go evil Robot!*

ROBERT: Gotta take a minute to give Cory some props. His design for this new version of Robot is totally great.





RYAN: I don't know if I've ever talked about my pink grids. I know we have some artist fans who might be interested, so here we go. I used to draw the grids on the paper, which obviously takes quite a lot of time. But now with digital layouts I can quickly lay down a grid and pull it to form almost any perspective I like. You can see for this 113 cover that I didn't do much penciling for that Viltrumite ship. The grid is the most important part so all those tiny windows line up perfectly. I did all the line work in the inks on the physical paper. Try it at home, kids!

ROBERT: That's amazing!

RYAN: Another cover that was refreshing and not so time-consuming. Drew this on the smaller 9x14 Bristol board. Broken stuff is always fun to draw.

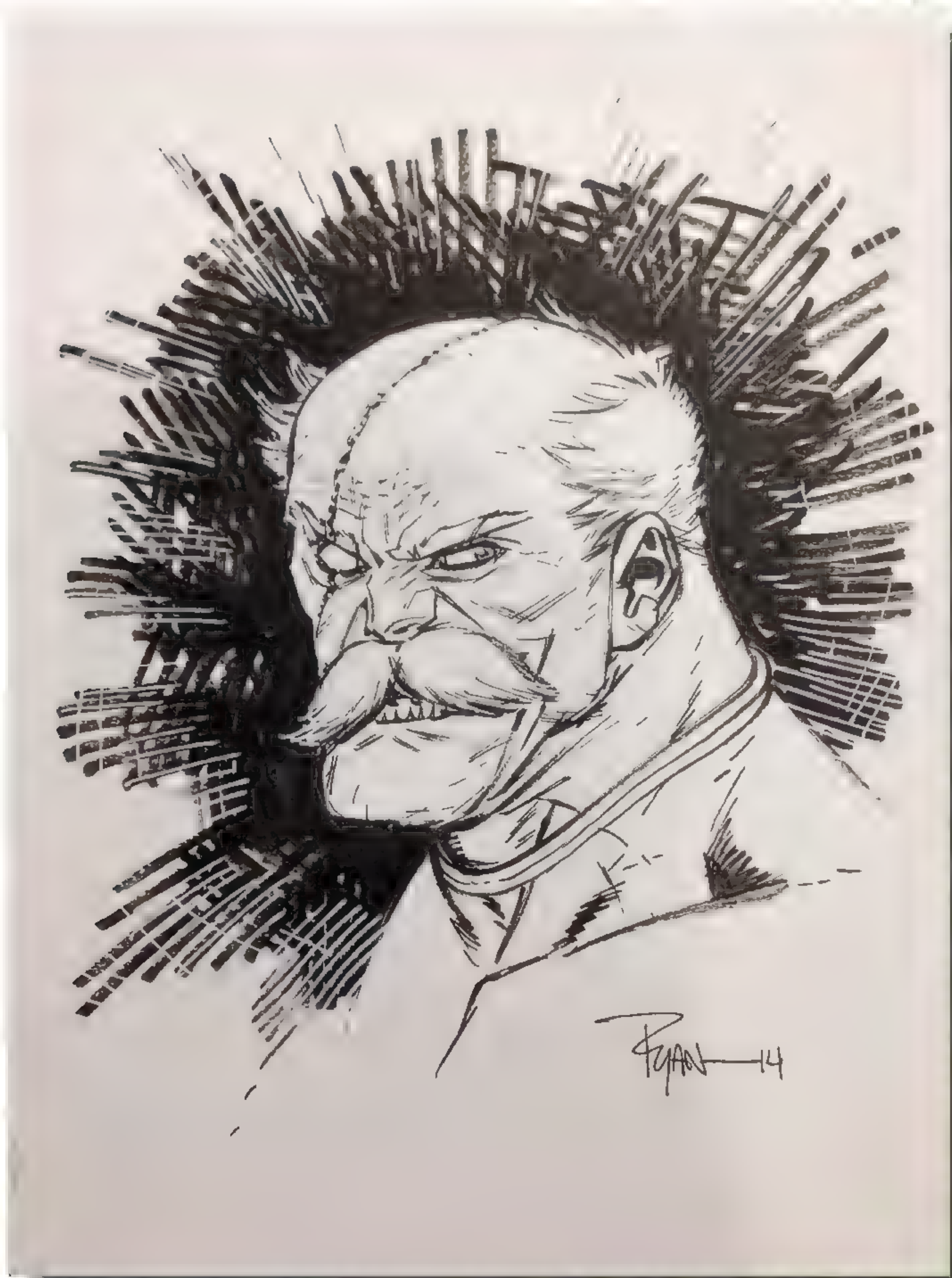
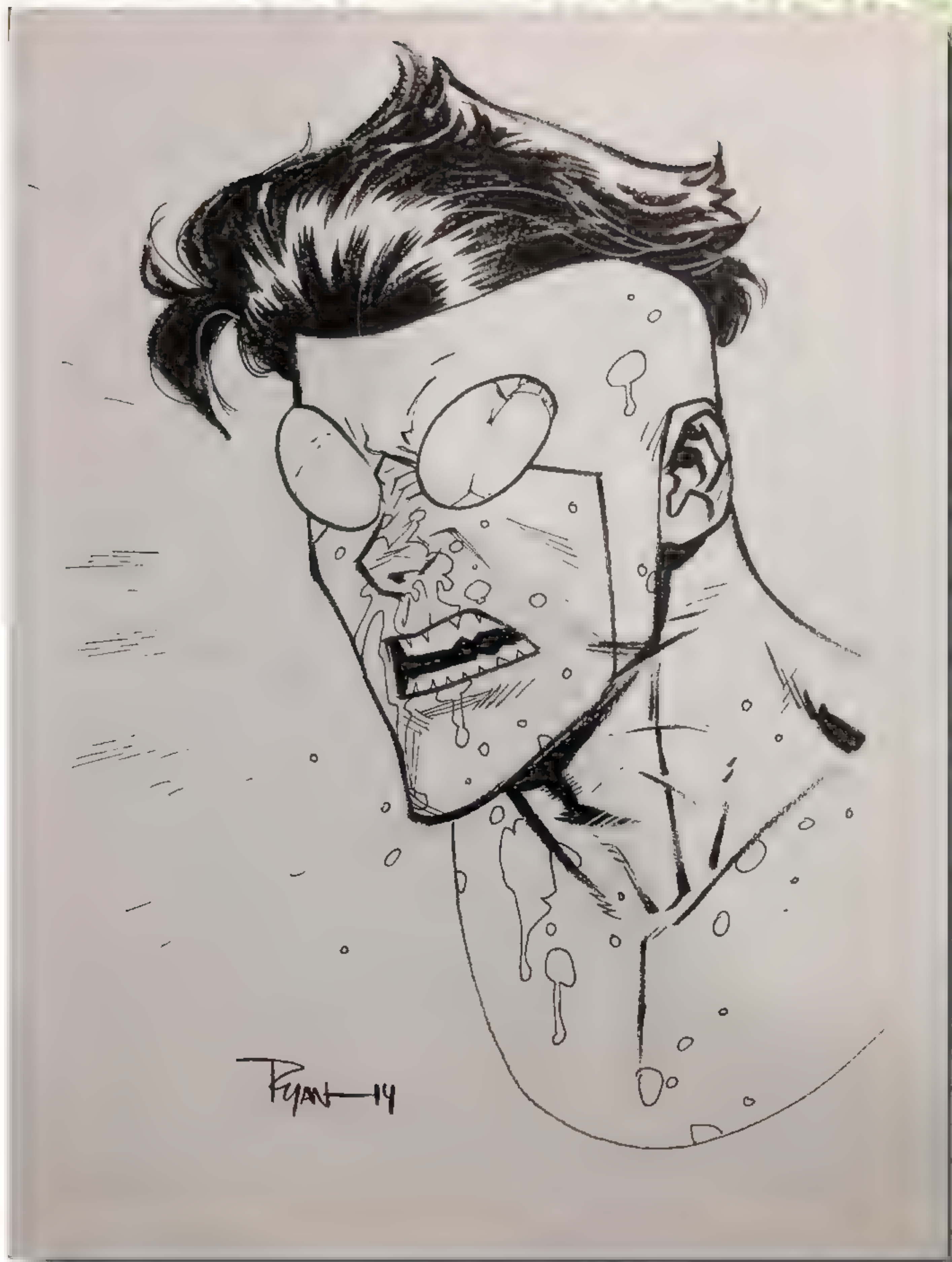
ROBERT: Smashed Robot head... can't go wrong there... and so misleading for what actually happens in the issue. So it's the BEST kind of cover.



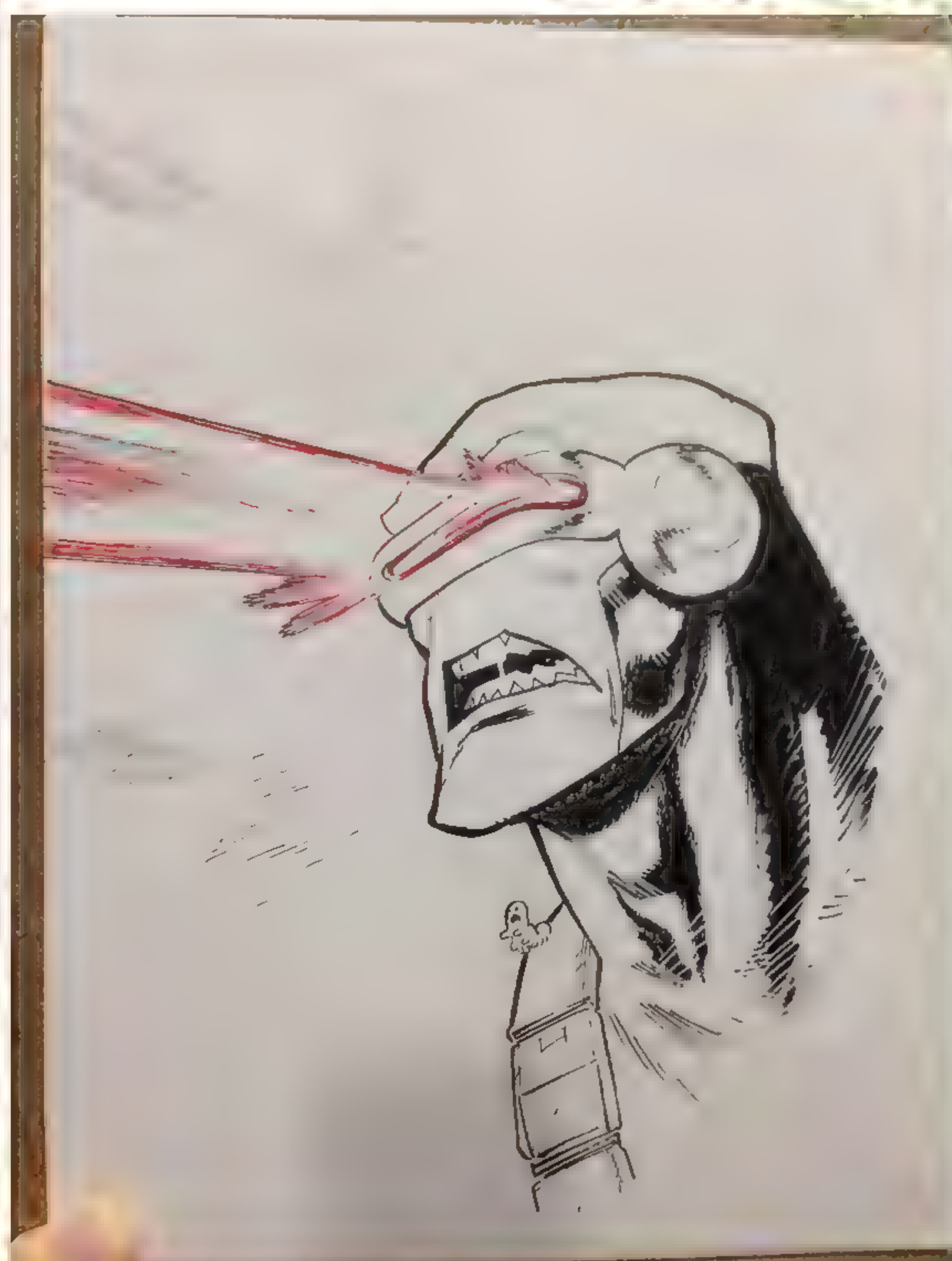
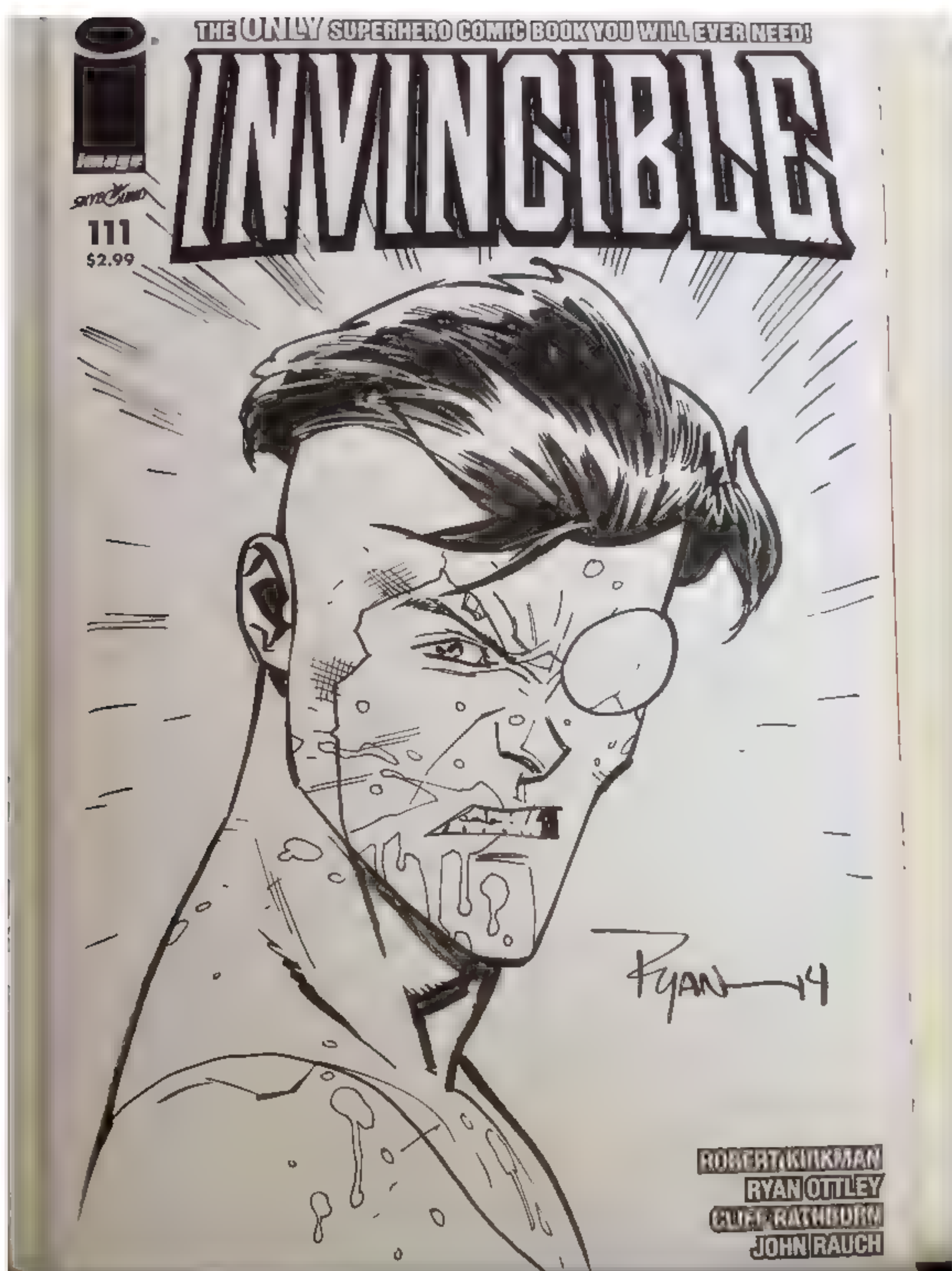


RYAN: Commission time! I did quite a lot of comic cons this year. So that means I did lots of drawing for fans. Here's some full commission and head sketches.

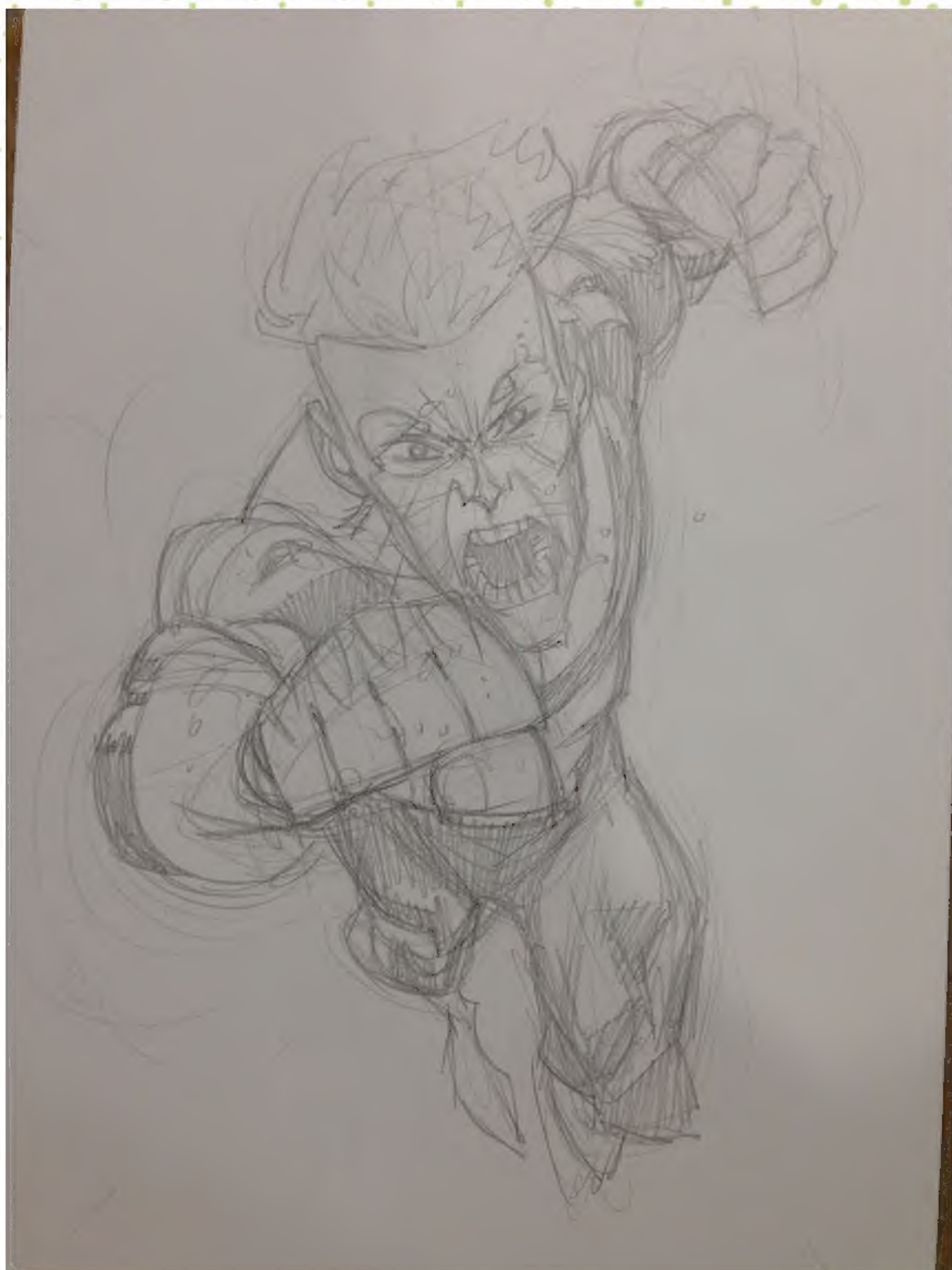












RYAN: Here's a process shot of a commission: pencils, then inks, then colored with markers. I love that someone asked for the blue costume. That's rare actually. Drawing *Invincible* beat-up? Not so rare, but that's fine with me. *Invincible* beat-up is always good times.

ROBERT: You always forget the blue pants! That's what makes the blue costume so cool... he has blue pants as part of it! Blue pants, black boots!

RYAN: Aw dammit. I do always forget the blue pants.

ROBERT: Thanks for reading everyone!



SUPERHERO

A new beginning
for **INVINCIBLE**
as things take
a turn down
a dark path.
Everything
changes as
Invincible is
betrayed by
one of his
own. You
won't want
to miss this
volume!

This volume collects issues 109-
114 of the Eisner-nominated
series.



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SKYBOUND

RATED T+ / TEEN PLUS

Ryan 100
RAUCH

